



Steve Zimmer <steve.zimmer@lacity.org>

## Fwd: Los Angeles Unified Reaches Agreement with UTLA

1 message

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Valentine, Lourdes Mae** <[lourdes.valentine@lausd.net](mailto:lourdes.valentine@lausd.net)>

Date: Tue, Jan 22, 2019 at 1:45 PM

Subject: Los Angeles Unified Reaches Agreement with UTLA

To: <[LAUSD-MEDIA@list.lausd.net](mailto:LAUSD-MEDIA@list.lausd.net)>

# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Shannon Haber (213) 241-6766**

## **Los Angeles Unified Reaches Agreement with UTLA**

*Provides 6% salary increase for educators*

*Reduces class size and adds nurses, counselors and librarians*

*Invests as much as possible while maintaining fiscal solvency*

*Provides additional opportunities for collaboration between District and Union*

The Los Angeles Unified School District today announced that it has reached an agreement with United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) on a new contract that provides a 6% salary increase for educators, reduces class sizes, adds a significant number of librarians, counselors and nurses, and maintains the fiscal solvency of the school district.

Schools will be open tomorrow to welcome all of our students and educators back to the classroom.

"Today marks a new chapter in public education for Los Angeles Unified," said Superintendent Austin Beutner. "Public education is the ultimate labor-management collaborative and we are

committed to working together to make sure every student gets a great education.”

Under the terms of the new contract, Los Angeles Unified agreed to:

- Reduce class size by four students in grades 4 through 12.
- Increase nursing services at every school.
- Increase library services at every middle school and high school.
- Add counselors at middle and high schools.

Los Angeles Unified and UTLA also agreed to work together through joint committees that will provide recommendations on a number of important issues:

- Charter co-location.
- Pay equity across adult, early education, Regional Occupational Centers/Regional Occupational Program.
- English Learner Master plan including American Sign Language.
- Green space in school campuses.

“Forty years of underinvestment in public education cannot be solved in just one week or with just one contract,” Beutner continued. “Now that students and all educators are heading back to the classroom, we must focus our attention to properly fund our schools for the long term.”

“I want to thank everyone in Los Angeles Unified – staff, principals and all other employees who worked so hard to keep our schools open and our students safe last week. We welcome our all of our students and teachers back with open arms.”

Attached are the details of the agreement.

**Los Angeles Unified School District Agreement with UTLA**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Los Angeles Unified Offer</b>	<b>Agreement</b>
<b>Salary Raises</b>	6% increase - 3% in 2017-18 - 3% in 2018-19	6% increase - 3% in 2017-18 - 3% in 2018-19
<b>Nurses</b>	176 in Elementary Schools (2019-20)	Increase in nursing services in every school 150 (2019-20) 150 (2020-21) 316 (2021-22)
<b>Librarians</b>	43 in Middle Schools (2019-20)	Increase in library services in every secondary schools 39 (2019-20) 39 (2020-21)
<b>Counselors</b>	86 in Comprehensive High Schools (2019-20)	In Secondary Schools 17 (2019-20) 0 (2020-21) 60 (2021-22)
<b>Class Size Reduction</b>	-2 in Middle Schools -2 in High Schools -4 in the 90 Highest Need Schools (75 Elementary and 15 middle schools) 39 Max for Secondary Math and English Classes No over 35 in Grades 4-6	In Grade 4-12 -1 in 2019-20 -1 in 2020-21 -2 in 2021-22
<b>Investment in Nurses, Librarians, Counselors and Class Size Reduction</b>	\$130 Million	\$175 Million (2019-21) \$228 Million (2021-22)

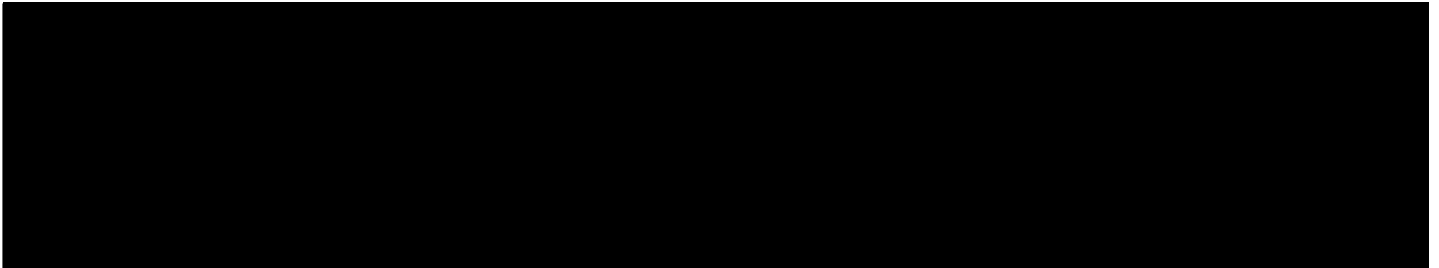
The agreement eliminated Section 1.5 of the contract.

Los Angeles Unified and UTLA have also agreed to work together through joint committees that would provide recommendations on:

- Charter co-location.
- Pay equity across adult, early education, Regional Occupational Centers/Regional Occupational Program.
- English Learner Master Plan including American Sign Language.
- Green space on campuses.

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**NR\_Los Angeles Unified School District Agreement with UTLA\_012219.pdf**  
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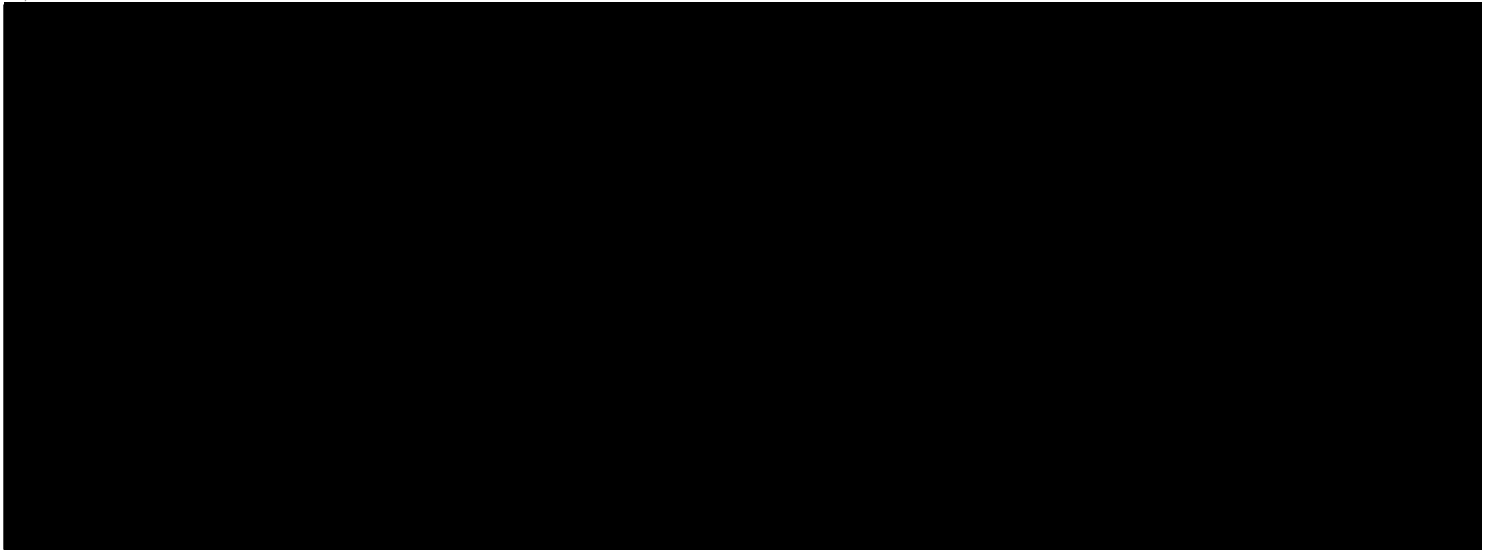
Steve Zimmer <[steve.zimmer@lacity.org](mailto:steve.zimmer@lacity.org)>

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## Fwd: checking in

1 message

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From: **Blume, Howard** <[Howard.Blume@latimes.com](mailto:Howard.Blume@latimes.com)>

Date: Mon, Jan 21, 2019 at 8:19 AM

Subject: checking in

To: Andrea Garcia <[andrea.f.garcia@lacity.org](mailto:andrea.f.garcia@lacity.org)>

When did they stop last night? When starting today?

Anything else to report?

--hb

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**Andrea Garcia**

Press Secretary, Spanish language media

Office of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti

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[@andreafgarcia](https://twitter.com/andreafgarcia)

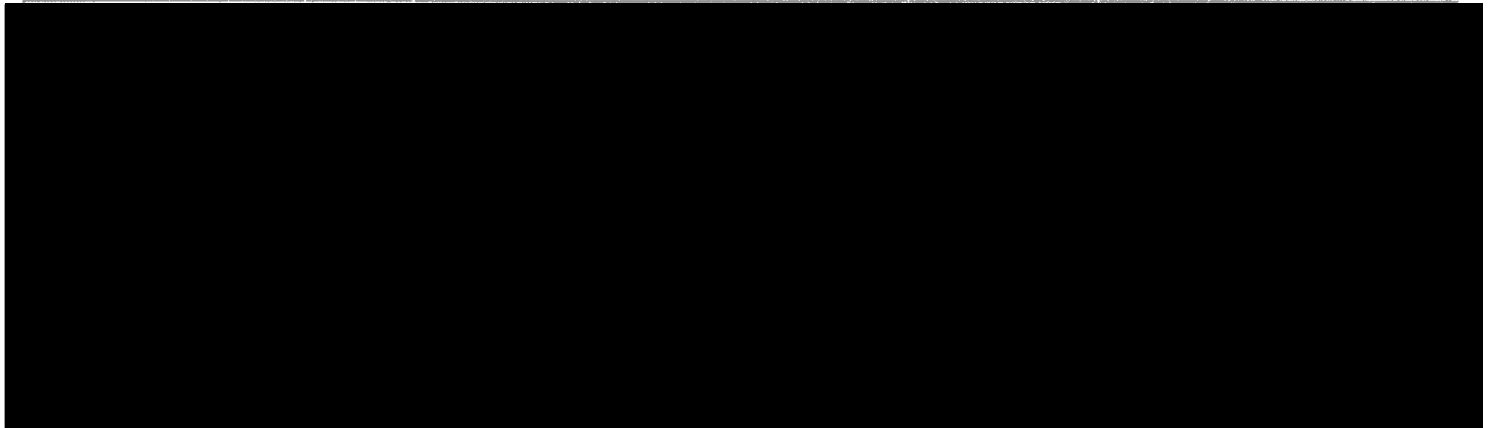


Steve Zimmer <steve.zimmer@lacity.org>

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**Fw: 'Parents zero, students zero' — An L.A. teacher strike is a no-win situation, parents of LAUSD's most vulnerable students tell community organizations**

2 messages



**From:** LASchoolReport <[info@laschoolreport.com](mailto:info@laschoolreport.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 8, 2019 7:19 AM

**To:** Zimmer, Steven

**Subject:** 'Parents zero, students zero' — An L.A. teacher strike is a no-win situation, parents of LAUSD's most vulnerable students tell community organizations

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**LA SCHOOL REPORT**

['Parents zero, students zero' — An L.A. teacher strike is a no-win situation,](#)

# parents of LAUSD's most vulnerable students tell community organizations

Esmeralda Fabián Romero | January 7, 2019



Parents of the most vulnerable students in Los Angeles are experiencing heightened stress in the run-up to a teacher strike because they feel they have the most to lose, say the leaders of two community organizations that work closely with parents of public school children.

Their children are already behind academically, and the parents fear that losing days or weeks of instruction will only make it worse. They already struggle with childcare and meeting basic needs, which is exacerbated during the federal government shutdown. And pressure from teachers to keep their kids at home is breaking down their relationships in the classroom and dividing parents at their schools.

“Parents feel there will be a severe disruption on their kids’ education as they feel that if they send their kids to school, it will

be more about babysitting kids, not instructing kids. On the other hand, can they afford to keep them at home? The answer is no,” said Sandy Mendoza, director of advocacy for Families In Schools. “It’s a no-win situation for them.”

She added, “It’s like a loss-loss, not a win-win at all. Parents zero, students zero.”

Last-ditch negotiations Monday ended with no agreement, with the district saying United Teachers Los Angeles had rejected a sweetened offer that added \$75 million to invest a total of \$105 million to help reduce class size and add nearly 1,000 more teachers, counselors, nurses and librarians.

UTLA President Alex Caputo-Pearl said at a news conference that both sides will be in court Tuesday, the district seeking to delay a strike and UTLA seeking confirmation that it legally can strike as early as Thursday.

At the latest, a strike would be pushed to Monday, Jan. 14, Caputo-Pearl said, even though the two sides will meet again Wednesday at 9 a.m. at district headquarters.

[Families In Schools](#), an L.A.-based parent empowerment organization, is one of the community organizations that parents have been reaching out to as they seek answers and support. It is part of CLASS — Communities for Los Angeles Student Success — a coalition representing 70 L.A. community partners, as is [Alliance for a Better Community](#), a community organization working with Latino families in Southeast L.A. and which has also been responding to families’ concerns as they look for answers and guidance.

Care for students with special needs has been a particular worry, Mendoza said.

“They will be around people that don’t know them, so there’s not going to be any way to provide the quality of support that they need on a consistent basis. They need consistent, uninterrupted support. Their life will be interrupted.”

They are also keenly aware that they are less able to handle the disruptions of a strike than other L.A. Unified parents. Mendoza said she heard other parents being interviewed on the radio saying they are hiring private instructors to work with their children at home during a strike. “That’s great for those families that can afford to get ready for the worst days coming out, but that’s not an option for all families,” Mendoza said.

[Read more.](#)

[Education must-reads: From Los Angeles bracing for a major teacher strike to why so many California schools are broke, 15 new things to know about California’s schools \(and beyond\)](#)

[Los Angeles Braces for Major Teachers’ Strike](#)

There are 900 schools, 30,000 teachers and more than 600,000 students in the Los Angeles public school system. By the end of the week, a teacher strike could throw them all into crisis.

After months of failed negotiations, teachers are expected to walk off the job on Thursday, in a show of frustration over what they say are untenable conditions in the second-largest school system in the country.

Teachers and other employees in the Los Angeles Unified School District are demanding higher pay, smaller class sizes and more support staff like counselors and librarians. But district officials say that they do not have the money to meet all of the demands and that the strike would do more damage to schools than good.

A strike in Los Angeles would offer a new stage for the national teacher protest movement, which in the last year has driven walkouts against stagnant pay and low education funding in six states. A walkout in staunchly liberal Los Angeles would also signal a major shift in a movement that has spread mostly in conservative or swing states with weaker unions. [\*By Jennifer Medina and Dana Goldstein, New York Times\*](#)

[\*\*No agreement to avert L.A. teachers' strike after a long day of bargaining\*\*](#), *Los Angeles Times*

[\*\*LAUSD and its teachers make no progress on negotiations, will go to court to determine strike date\*\*](#), *Los Angeles Daily News*

[Highly paid substitutes, lessons in large spaces — how L.A. Unified is preparing for a teachers strike](#), *Los Angeles Times*

[If there's an LAUSD teachers strike, non-union substitute teachers could be highly paid](#), *Los Angeles Daily News*

[L.A. schools have bigger problems than a looming teachers strike](#), *Los Angeles Times*

[The economy is booming. Why are so many California schools broke?](#), *Sacramento Bee*

[Teachers have a choice: kids or picket lines](#), *San Bernardino Sun*

[Governor Dad: How Gavin Newsom's kids are about to shape California](#), *CALmatters*

[Consistent to the end, Jerry Brown says it's all about teachers and students](#), *EdSource*

[Expectations are high for newly sworn-in state schools chief Tony Thurmond](#), *Los Angeles Times*

[Tony Thurmond sworn in as new state superintendent of public instruction](#), *EdSource*

[D.C.'s High Teacher Turnover Rate Hurts Educators as Well as Students. Blame the District's Pension Plan](#), *The 74*

[Context on LAUSD's Potential Teacher Strike](#), *TeacherPensions.org*



[XQ's 19th Super School Is an Oakland Diverse-by-Design Charter High School Founded by a Local Teacher](#), *Education Post*

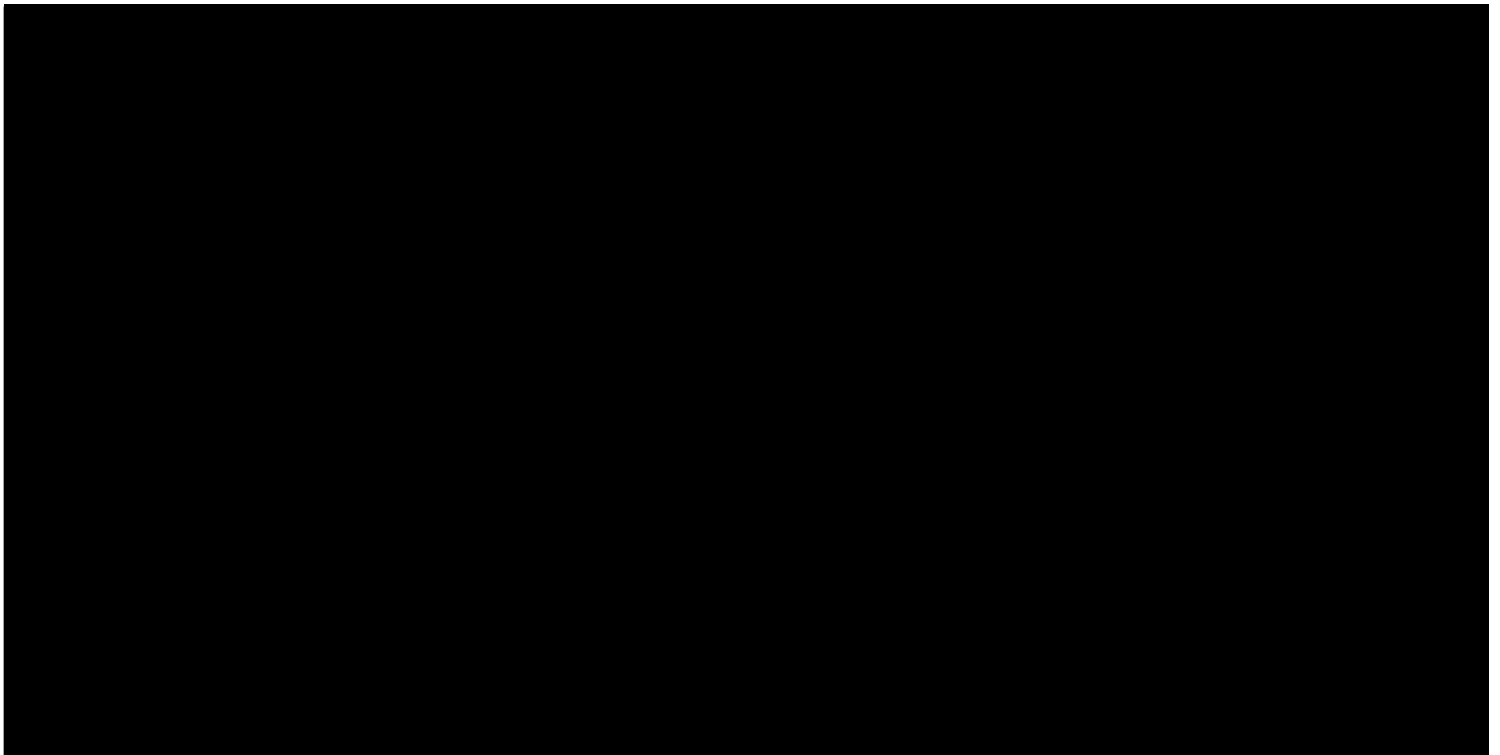


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**From:** LASchoolReport <[info@laschoolreport.com](mailto:info@laschoolreport.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 8, 2019 7:19 AM

**To:** Zimmer, Steven

**Subject:** 'Parents zero, students zero' — An L.A. teacher strike is a no-win situation, parents of LAUSD's most vulnerable students tell community organizations

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Steve Zimmer <[steve.zimmer@lacity.org](mailto:steve.zimmer@lacity.org)>

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## Fwd: FW: Teachers strike - letter to Gov Newsom

3 messages

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Blume, Howard** <[Howard.Blume@latimes.com](mailto:Howard.Blume@latimes.com)>

Date: Tue, Jan 8, 2019 at 4:24 PM

Subject: FW: Teachers strike - letter to Gov Newsom

To: Suzi Emmerling <[suzi.emmerling@lacity.org](mailto:suzi.emmerling@lacity.org)>

Suzi –

Any mayoral thoughts on this letter to the new governor?

Have these folks reached out to the mayor in a similar fashion? If so, when?

I'm done with Melvoin but now phoned in to a mandatory editorial meeting on our own strike preparation.

--hb

---

**From:** Vy Nguyen [<mailto:vnuyen@weingartfnd.org>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 8, 2019 3:44 PM

**To:** Blume, Howard

**Subject:** Teachers strike - letter to Gov Newsom

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside our organization.

Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.



Hi Howard,

I hope you've been well. Attached is a letter to Gov Newsom from Fred Ali, Antonia Hernandez and Bob Ross urging his leadership on the upcoming strike. It was received by his office this morning. We thought you might be interested – let me know if you have questions.

Thanks,

Vy

**Vy Nguyen**

Director of Special Projects and Communications (*she/her*)

Weingart Foundation

700 S. Flower Street, Suite 1900 | Los Angeles, CA 90017

213.688.6319 | [vnghuyen@weingartfnd.org](mailto:vnghuyen@weingartfnd.org) | [www.weingartfnd.org](http://www.weingartfnd.org)

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**Suzi Emmerling**

Communications Director

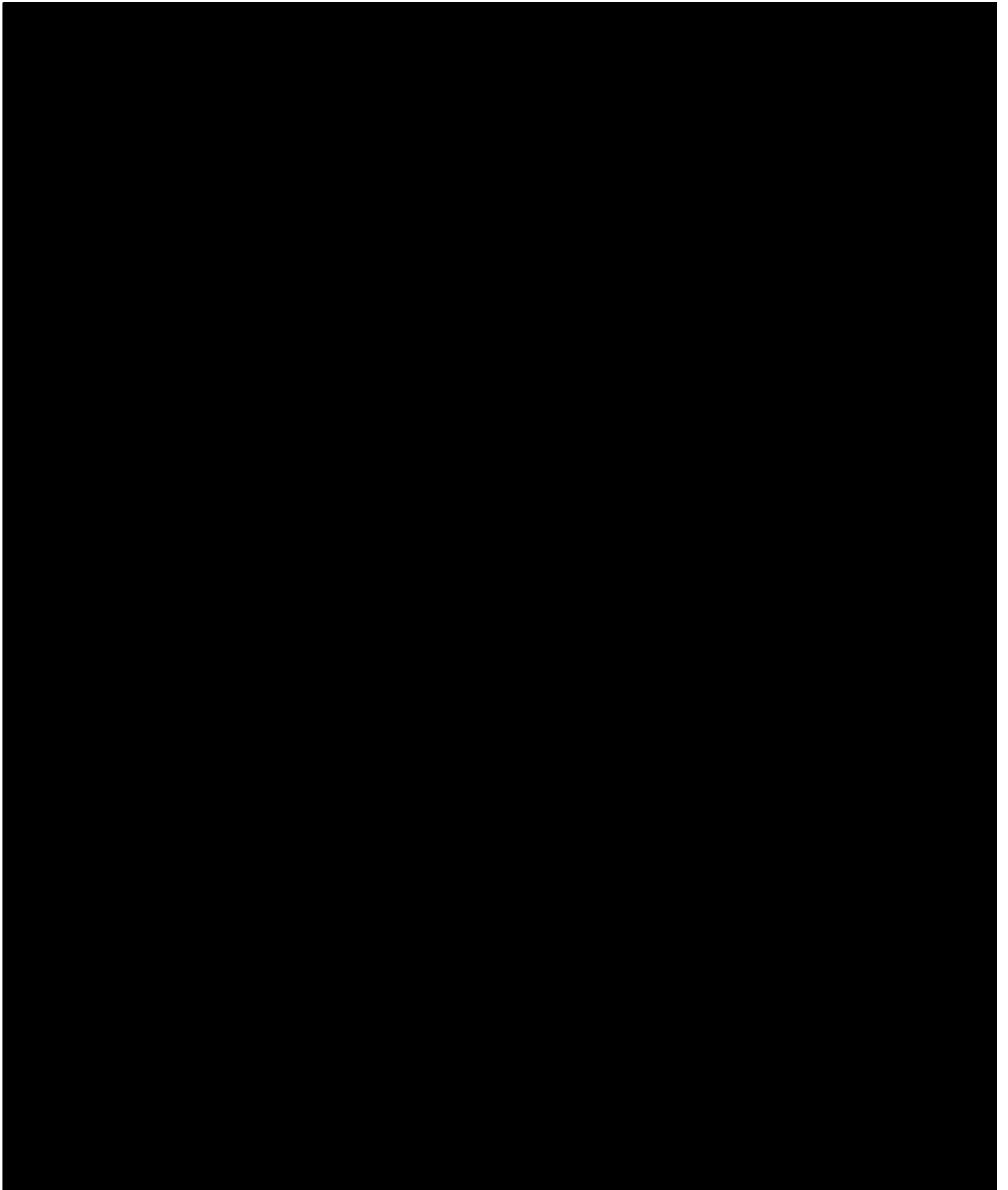
Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti

213-978-1649 (o)



**Letter to Gov Newsom 2019.pdf**

92K



[Quoted text hidden]



January 8, 2019

Governor Gavin Newsom  
C/o State Capitol, Suite 1173  
1315 10th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,

Today marks your first day as governor. Already you have demonstrated your commitment to strengthening public education in California by promising significant new funding investments in childcare, early education and higher education. We are calling on you to exercise the same bold commitment toward our state's K-12 public schools. The time to act is now.

In just a few days, the largest school district in the state, serving over 640,000 students and families, will likely experience a significant disruption for an unknown period of time due to a strike by United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA).

For the sake of so many low-income students and families who will be significantly harmed by a strike, **we urge you to intervene immediately.**

We support the collective bargaining process. For more than 18 months, the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and UTLA have been unsuccessful in negotiating a labor agreement. Most issues remain unresolved, although an independent fact-finding report provides an objective framework to facilitate a resolution. We believe that if you engage directly with the parties, you can help bring them to an agreement.

California ranks 41<sup>st</sup> in the nation in per-pupil spending. The financial distress that is at the heart of the deadlock between UTLA and LAUSD is not unique to Los Angeles. School districts across the state are grappling with declining enrollment, increases in students with special needs, unsustainable pension costs, diminishing pipelines of highly qualified teachers, and much more.

Your involvement is needed not only to resolve this immediate crisis in Los Angeles, but also to lead the way in increasing funding for public education across the state, to ensure that our schools, students and teachers finally get the resources they need and deserve. With more state funding, LAUSD and other districts like it would be able to provide smaller class sizes, hire more counselors, nurses and librarians, and recruit and retain top teachers.



California already asks our most vulnerable families, who often have the least, to endure the most. A shutdown of public education – which would deny learning, nutrition and other crucial services to hundreds of thousands of low-income children – is simply too heavy a burden for families to bear.

We urge you to help facilitate a swift resolution. We stand ready to partner with you and support you however we can.

Sincerely,

Fred Ali  
President and CEO, Weingart Foundation

Antonia Hernández  
President and CEO, California Community Foundation

Dr. Robert K. Ross  
President and CEO, The California Endowment

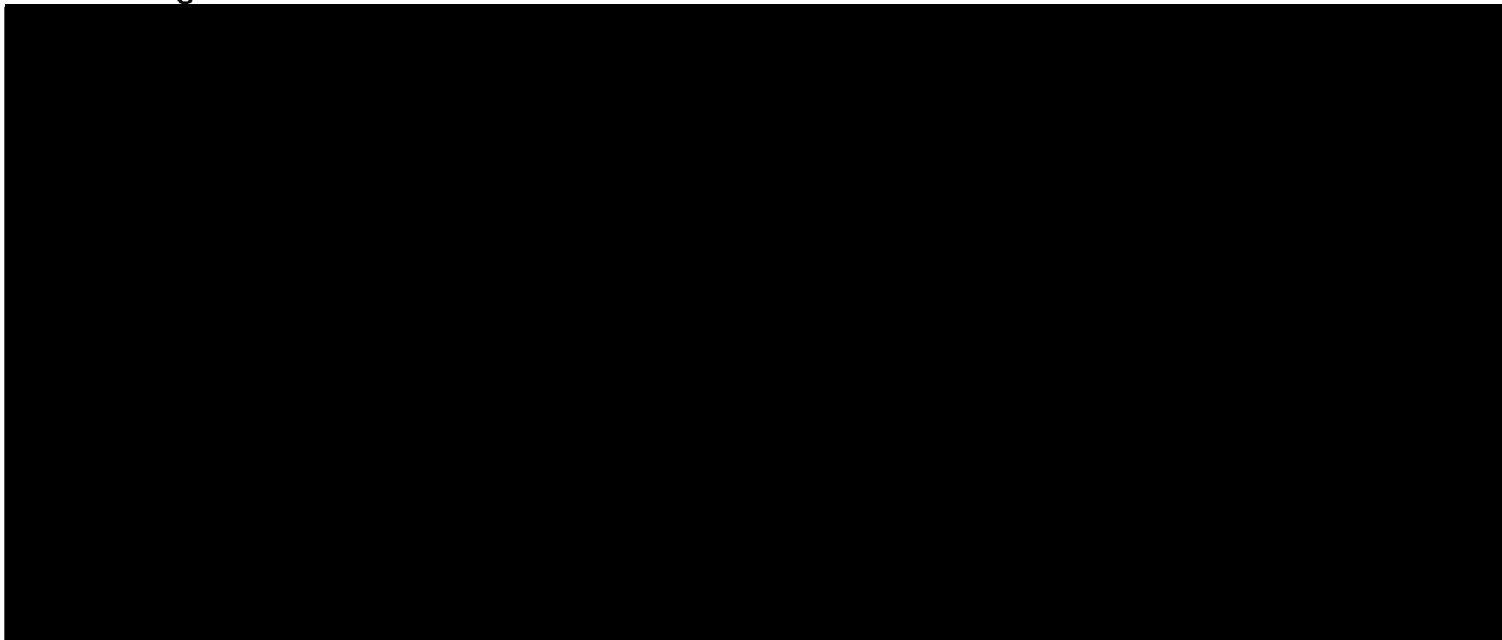


Steve Zimmer <steve.zimmer@lacity.org>

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## Fwd: Memo from Mayor regarding Potential Impacts on Staffing Levels

1 message



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mandy Morales** <mandy.morales@lacity.org>

Date: Fri, Jan 4, 2019 at 12:37 PM

Subject: Memo from Mayor regarding Potential Impacts on Staffing Levels

To: Laura Trejo <laura.trejo@lacity.org>, <dflint@lawa.org>, Brenda Barnette <brenda.barnette@lacity.org>, Frank Bush <frank.bush@lacity.org>, Cat Packer <cat.packer@lacity.org>, Richard Llewellyn <richard.llewellyn@lacity.org>, Holly Wolcott <holly.wolcott@lacity.org>, Doane Liu <doane.liu@lacity.org>, Danielle Brazell <danielle.brazell@lacity.org>, Stephen Simon <stephen.simon@lacity.org>, John Reamer <john.reamer@lacity.org>, Chris Espinosa <chris.espinosa@lacity.org>, Aram Sahakian <aram.sahakian@lacity.org>, Najeeb Khoury <najeeb.khoury@lacity.org>, Heather Holt <heather.holt@lacity.org>, Claire Bartels <claire.bartels@lacity.org>, Ralph Terrazas <ralph.terrazas@lacity.org>, Ray Ciranna <RAY.CIRANNA@lafpp.com>, Tony Royster <tony.royster@lacity.org>, gene\_seroka <gene\_seroka@portla.org>, Doug Guthrie <douglas.guthrie@hacla.org>, Rushmore Cervantes <rushmore.cervantes@lacity.org>, Ted Ross <ted.ross@lacity.org>, John Szabo <jszabo@lapl.org>, Guglielmo, Neil <neil.guglielmo@lacers.org>, Grayce Liu <grayce.liu@lacity.org>, Wendy Macy <wendy.macy@lacity.org>, Vince Bertoni <vince.bertoni@lacity.org>, <michel.moore@lapd.online>, Kevin James <kevin.james@lacity.org>, Gary Lee Moore <gary.lee.moore@lacity.org>, Enrique Zaldivar <enrique.zaldivar@lacity.org>,

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Denise Verret <[denise.verret@lacity.org](mailto:denise.verret@lacity.org)>  
Cc: Susan Stiles <[susan.stiles@lacity.org](mailto:susan.stiles@lacity.org)>, WILLIAMS, DONNA L.  
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Cavanaugh <[veronica.cavanaugh@lacity.org](mailto:veronica.cavanaugh@lacity.org)>, Carrie Firestone  
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<[antoinette.barrios@lacity.org](mailto:antoinette.barrios@lacity.org)>, Regina Gallegos <[regina.gallegos@lacity.org](mailto:regina.gallegos@lacity.org)>,  
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Please see attached memo from Mayor Eric Garcetti.

Thank you,  
Mandy

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**MANDY MORALES**

Legislative Coordinator  
Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti  
Office (213) 978-0620



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**20190104 Memo re Potential Impacts on Staffing Levels2.pdf**  
321K





**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** January 4, 2019  
**TO:** Heads of All City Departments  
**FROM:** Mayor Eric Garcetti *EG*  
**RE:** Potential Impacts on Staffing Levels

Many of the employees who have dedicated their careers to the City of Los Angeles also play an essential role outside of the workplace: they are the parents of school-age children, many of whom are students in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD).

The United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) has indicated that a district-wide strike will be called on Thursday, January 10 if LAUSD and UTLA are unable to reach a labor agreement. Campuses are expected to be open if the strike does occur, and the District is encouraging families to continue sending children to school. Some parents may opt to keep their children at home.

The decision of how to manage child care during a strike is a very personal choice. Given the potential impact on staffing levels, should some parents choose to stay home with their children, I expect all General Managers to carefully balance the needs of Angelenos who depend on City services with the needs of employees who may suddenly find themselves in a difficult situation. General Managers should immediately begin communicating with employees their plans and expectations to ensure continuity and adequate staffing in the event of a strike.

During this time, I encourage all General Managers to be flexible and accommodate the needs of their employees while adhering to City rules, including the use of compensated time off. Should you have any questions, please contact the Personnel Department or the Deputy Mayor to whom you report.

All departments shall inform their Deputy Mayor of their respective plans by January 9. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.



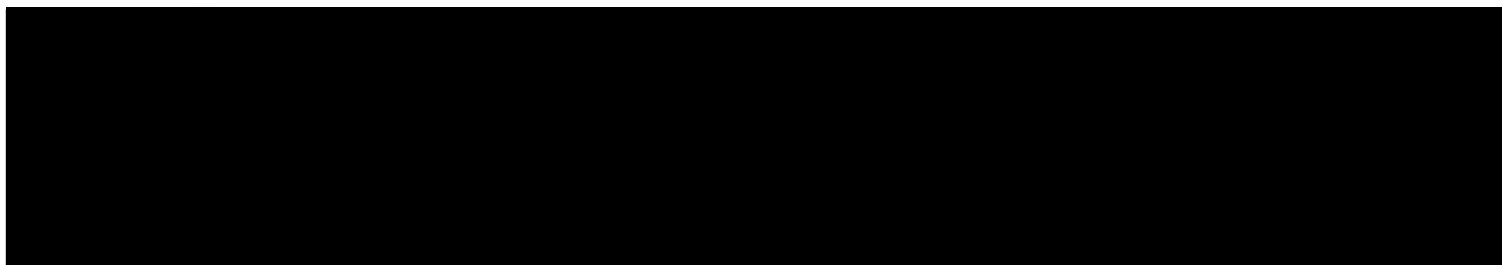


Steve Zimmer <steve.zimmer@lacity.org>

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## Fwd: Statement by Superintendent Austin Beutner on the UTLA Contract

1 message



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Valentine, Lourdes Mae** <lourdes.valentine@lausd.net>

Date: Tue, Jan 29, 2019 at 1:38 PM

Subject: Statement by Superintendent Austin Beutner on the UTLA Contract

To: <LAUSD-MEDIA@list.lausd.net>

# News Statement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Shannon Haber (213) 241-6766

## Statement by Superintendent Austin Beutner on the UTLA Contract

Mayor Garcetti referred last week to this as an historic contract. One contract or one week of negotiations can't solve 40 years of underfunding of public education or decades of frustration felt by educators and all who work in our schools. But I do think we are at an historic moment to start addressing these issues, together with our labor partners. This contract is not the end; it's the beginning.

When I started as Superintendent about six months ago, all of the contracts with our eight labor partners were unsettled. There had been a year of stalemate, further eroding trust between LA Unified and all who work in our schools. Since then contracts with all of the unions have been settled. The same basic principles are embodied in all of them:

- Provide a fair increase in salary, about 6%. Los Angeles is an expensive place to live and it's not easy for any of our employees to make ends meet.
- Improve working conditions and create additional flexibility and resources to serve the needs of students in schools, and
- Live within our means. Los Angeles Unified is facing significant budget challenges and we simply cannot spend money we do not have, even in the face of real unmet needs in our schools.

Specifically, the agreement with UTLA provides for the following:

- A 3% raise for 2017-18 and a 3% raise for 2018-19.
- A commitment to reduce class sizes in all schools with further reductions in highest needs schools.
- A commitment to address the inequity which exists in our schools. The full funding of the Student Equity Need Index will be an integral part of the 2019-20 budget.
- Additional support for students and educators with more nurses, counselors and librarians in schools. There are nationwide shortages in some of these areas so we'll have to work hard and be creative to find the top talent we want.
- Agreements to work together on a series of areas we all agree could make a difference in schools including green spaces, immigrant rights and other areas. It's also clear we'll need to find other sources of money to do this work as we agreed we cannot use

our existing dollars on these areas since those dollars are being spent in classrooms.

All of this is being done within the limits of the existing dollars we have. Every nickel LA Unified has, including the additional support from the County of Los Angeles for nurses and mental health, and the increases in funding in the Governor's proposed budget are going to classrooms. And not more than that because our budget difficulties are very real.

The agreement also reflects a commitment to further reduce class size and add support to schools in future years. All who helped create this agreement—LA Unified, UTLA, the Mayor of Los Angeles and the many families and communities who stood in support of public education these past two weeks—understand the gravity of the commitment they made. The words must become deeds to increase support for public education.

This contract is far from perfect, most are. And I've certainly been made aware of the imperfections as many have called to share their concerns. I guess if everyone is a bit unhappy we might have found the right compromise.

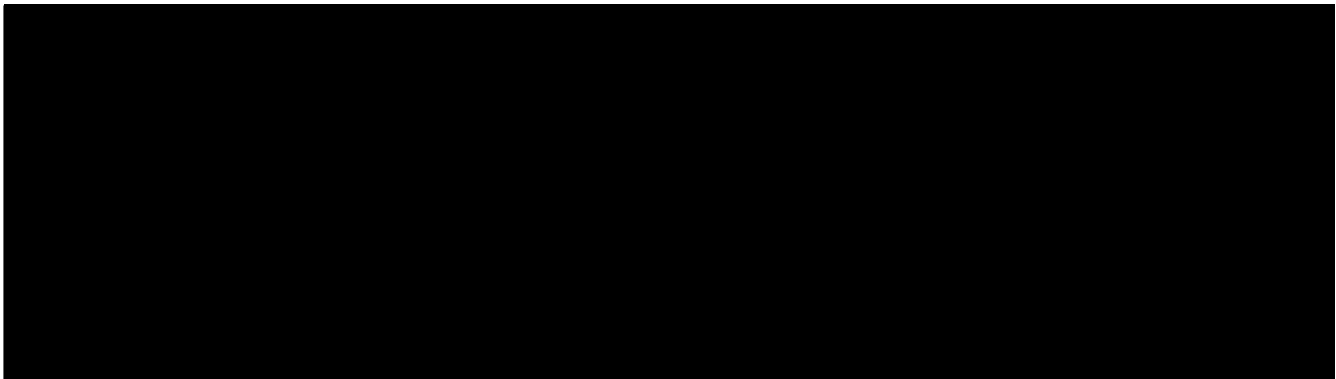
The team at LA Unified worked very hard to avoid a strike because the consequences are very real. Students missed about two million days of education which cannot be made up, families' lives were disrupted, LA Unified lost more than \$100 million which could have been invested in schools and educators lost for more than a week without pay to advocate for what they believe in. But public education is now the topic of conversation in every household in Los Angeles and the communities we serve. Let's build on that support and move forward.

We worked together with UTLA on this resolution. It reflects something we could all live with, and a chance to work together to make it better.

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<http://list.lausd.net/scripts/wa.exe?SUBED1=LAUSD-MEDIA&A=1>



**NS\_Statement by Superintendent Austin Beutner on the UTLA  
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## **Los Angeles Unified School District**

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www.lausd.net



# **News Statement**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**January 29, 2019**

**CONTACT:**

**Shannon Haber, 213-241-6766**

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## **NEWS STATEMENT 2-2-2-2-2**

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**###**



Steve Zimmer <steve.zimmer@lacity.org>

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## FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 2018

1 message

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**Cate Hurley** <cate.hurley@lacity.org>  
To: Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>  
Bcc: myr.pressclips@lacity.org

Fri, Jan 18, 2019 at 7:18 AM

### **Mayor Eric Garcetti**

ASSOCIATED PRESS/NYT: [Strike by Los Angeles Teachers Enters Fifth Day Amid Talks](#)

REUTERS: [Striking Los Angeles teachers set major rally amid marathon contract talks](#)

NBC LOS ANGELES: [Los Angeles Teachers Strike Enters Fifth Day Amid Talks](#)

REUTERS: [Teachers' strike tests Los Angeles mayor's White House hopes](#)

LA TIMES: [What would a deal to end the LAUSD teachers' strike look like?](#)

LA TIMES: [Who could come out strong in the LAUSD teachers' strike when all is said and done?](#)

WASHINGTON POST: [The Trailer: Who's afraid of the Women's March](#)

LA TIMES: [LAUSD teachers' strike, Day 4: Talks reopen, attendance falls, losses mount](#)

REUTERS: [Talks resume as Los Angeles teachers' strike runs for fourth day](#)

WASHINGTON POST: [Los Angeles teachers union, school district head back to the bargaining table on fourth day of strike](#)

CBS LOS ANGELES: [Talks Resume At LA Mayor's Office To End Teachers Strike \(CBS Los Angeles\)](#)

NEW YORK TIMES: [At Los Angeles Teachers' Strike, a Rallying Cry: More Funding, Fewer Charters](#)

LA DAILY NEWS: [LAUSD School Board member Schmerelson goes his own way on Beutner's handling of strike: 'I couldn't keep quiet anymore'](#)

KCRW: [Former LAUSD board member and teacher: The district is not going bankrupt](#)

KPCC: [Amidst FBI probe into City Hall corruption, we debate a revived proposal to City Council limiting developer's political donations](#)

LA TIMES: [Big earthquake would topple countless buildings, but many cities ignore the danger](#)

NPR: [25 Years After The Northridge Earthquake, Is LA Ready For The Big One?](#)

LA DAILY NEWS: [25 years later, local leaders gather to share lessons learned after Northridge quake](#)

CURBED LA: [Why does LA's mandatory retrofit program ignore vulnerable steel skyscrapers?](#)



[LAIST: The Northridge Earthquake Was 25 Years Ago, And It Looked Like This \(LINK ONLY\)](#)

[FIVETHIRTYEIGHT: What The Potential 2020 Candidates Are Doing And Saying, Vol. 2](#)

[LA TIMES: In blow to Los Angeles, SpaceX is moving some Mars spaceship and booster work to Texas](#)

[LAIST: The Kobe Bryant Hologram Loves Tourism And Is As Surreal As You Think It Is](#)

## **Associated Press/NYT**

### **Strike by Los Angeles Teachers Enters Fifth Day Amid Talks**

LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles teachers will walk picket lines for a fifth day Friday after the union and school district officials returned to the bargaining table with hopes of ending the massive strike in the nation's second-largest school district.

Contract negotiations resumed Thursday for the first time in nearly a week with no word on whether either side provided a new offer.

Union officials tempered expectations.

"We should be aware that we've been at this for 21 months and there are some very fundamental issues that there are key differences on. So an agreement is not going to take shape overnight," said Alex Caputo-Pearl, president of United Teachers Los Angeles. "But today there's been good and hard work on that."

Caputo-Pearl said negotiations likely would continue Friday and possibly through the weekend.

Mayor **Eric Garcetti** had urged both sides to resume talks at City Hall. The mayor does not have authority over the Los Angeles Unified School District but he has sought to help both sides reach an agreement.

Teachers planned a huge rally at downtown's Grand Park on Friday — the first day with no rain in the forecast since the strike began.

Clashes over pay, class sizes and support-staff levels in the district with 640,000 students led to its first strike in 30 years and prompted the staffing of classrooms with substitute teachers and administrators.

Parents and children have joined the protests despite heavy rain that has drenched the city. Overall attendance fell to 83,900 students on Thursday.

With state funding dependent on attendance, student absences cost the district about \$97 million over four days, the district said. At the same time, it doesn't have to spend about \$10 million a day on teacher pay.

The union representing principals urged LA Unified to close schools until the strike is over. If the district can't close the campuses, Associated Administrators of Los Angeles asked for additional resources for principals who have helped keep schools running while teachers walk picket lines.

In response, Beutner acknowledged the administrator's sacrifices but said LAUSD schools must remain open to provide a safe place for students.

All 1,240 K-12 schools in the district were open — a departure from successful strikes in other states that emboldened the LA union to act.

The union rejected the district's latest offer to hire nearly 1,200 teachers, counselors, nurses and librarians and to reduce class sizes by two students. It also included a previously proposed 6 percent raise over the first two years of a three-year contract. The union wants a 6.5 percent hike at the start of a two-year contract.

District officials have said teacher demands could bankrupt the school system. Superintendent Austin Beutner has urged the teachers to join him in pushing for more funding from the state, which provides 90 percent of the district's money.

## **Reuters**

### **Striking Los Angeles teachers set major rally amid marathon contract talks**

By: Steve Gorman

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Union leaders urged striking Los Angeles teachers to turn out en masse for a rally on Friday marking the fifth day of their walkout against the second-largest U.S. school district, seeking to boost their bargaining position in marathon labor talks.

Some 30,000 teachers who have gone without a contract for nearly a year walked off the job on Monday demanding higher pay, smaller classes and more support staff. It was the first such work stoppage to hit the Los Angeles Unified School District in three decades.

The labor strife in Los Angeles follows a wave of teacher strikes last year across the United States over salaries and school funding, including walkouts in West Virginia, Oklahoma and Arizona.

Another key point of contention in Los Angeles has been the teachers' calls for restraint in LAUSD's steady expansion of independently managed charter schools that the union argues are diverting resources from traditional classroom instruction.

School District Superintendent Austin Beutner has said the demands, if fully met, would inflict too great a budget strain. The union's president, Alex Caputo-Pearl, has insisted sufficient funding is available given the right priorities.

The two sides returned to the bargaining table around midday on Thursday, meeting

for the first time since 21 months of talks broke off a week ago with the union's rejection of what was then management's latest offer.

Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who has no direct authority over the school district, was acting as a mediator in the talks.

A union spokeswoman told Reuters by email Thursday night that negotiators were still at it some nine hours after they started. It was not clear how long they would continue to work before taking a break.

At a news conference earlier in the evening, Caputo-Pearl said bargaining would likely extend into the weekend. "An agreement is not going to take shape overnight," he said, but added, "This is not going to be months."

A district spokeswoman, Shannon Haber, declined comment.

Caputo-Pearl said it was crucial for union rank-and-file to achieve a major turnout at a rally planned for Friday morning in downtown Grand Park.

"The more power that we show with our numbers in Grand Park, the more power our bargaining team has in bargaining," he said. "It's that simple."

Forecasts call for sunny skies on Friday after drenching downpours that marked the strike's first four days.

The strike has disrupted classes for nearly 500,000 students, though support for teachers was running high among parents and among the public at large as reflected in a recent survey of Los Angeles residents.

The walkout also has drawn gestures of solidarity from several major politicians considered likely contenders for the Democratic 2020 presidential nomination, including Garcetti and U.S. Senators Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Kamala Harris.

District officials have kept all 1,200 schools open on a limited basis with a skeleton staff, but attendance was running well below normal.

Caputo-Pearl cited teachers' demands to reduce class size by hiring more teachers as "arguably the most fundamental" stumbling block. The parties are closer on salary.

The union wants a 6.5 percent pay raise. The district has offered 6 percent with back pay. LAUSD teacher pay currently averages \$75,000, state figures show.

Caputo-Pearl said California Governor Gavin Newsom has weighed in with both sides and would likely "play a key role" in helping clinch a deal.

**Reuters**

## Teachers' strike tests Los Angeles mayor's White House hopes

By: Joseph Ax

(Reuters) - Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti's** White House hopes could hang on how he quickly he is able to resolve the city's first teachers' strike in three decades, which disrupted classes for nearly half a million students for a fourth day on Thursday.

Although the 47-year-old Democrat does not have direct control over the nation's second-largest school system, he will mediate talks between union and district leaders after days of protests that grabbed nationwide headlines.

The move may help Garcetti, who is considering a presidential run but has not officially declared his intentions, raise his national profile.

Strategists said it also could tie his reputation to the outcome, with a quick deal giving him a boost while drawn-out scenes of the union's 30,000 teachers, about a third of whom are Latino, on picket lines could harm his standing with key Democratic constituencies.

"Before the strike, I had this in the column of things that would be really hard on his presidential campaign," said Raphael Sonenshein, the executive director of the Pat Brown Institute for Public Affairs at California State University in Los Angeles. "If he's able to bring some influence to bear that contributes to a positive resolution, that would potentially be a plus."

Garcetti is one of more than a dozen Democrats weighing whether to take on the Republican Party's presumptive 2020 nominee, President Donald Trump. White House aspirants are already scrambling to try to raise their national profiles and secure staff and donors.

In his two terms as mayor and decade before that on the city council, the Spanish-speaking Garcetti focused on environmental and urban planning initiatives, seeking to cut back Los Angeles' famous dependence on cars.

He frequently employs the hashtag #MayorsGetThingsDone on Twitter, part of his argument that his experience compares favorably with that of lawmakers in often-gridlocked Washington.

But other than leading the city's bid for the Olympic Games, which resulted in Los Angeles being chosen to host the 2028 Summer Olympics, Garcetti has rarely been in the national spotlight.

### 'RIGHTEOUS FIGHT'

Garcetti offered to serve as a mediator in the teacher strike, starting on Thursday, which convinced the two sides to come to the table for the first time since the strike

began.

Before assuming the mediator role, Garcetti had carefully walked a line. He supported teachers, whose demands have focused on lowering class sizes and adding support staff such as nurses to schools in addition to a pay raise, while also acknowledging the school board faces financial pressures.

"This is an important and righteous fight about the soul of our schools," Garcetti told Reuters on Tuesday after chatting with several teachers at a downtown deli. "At the same time, we have to find the resources to do it. You can't spend money that you don't have."

Unlike in some big cities, an independently elected board, not the mayor, runs the Los Angeles Unified School District and is leading the negotiations.

Garcetti recalled his grandmother's time working as an educator in the 1960s in Milwaukee.

"It's kind of similar to now: We have a society that is increasingly polarized in terms of wealth," he said. "Those who depend on public institutions like public schools, if we can't make them work, we won't have a strong nation."

Garcetti has not shown up in the top 10 of likely 2020 Democrats in recent polls. He trails in name recognition compared with U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, who declared her candidacy last month, and former Vice President Joe Biden and U.S. Senator Kamala Harris of California, who have expressed strong interest.

A long strike could only hurt Garcetti's chances of building a positive national reputation, said Ben Tulchin, a Democratic pollster who has worked for Los Angeles school board candidates and former presidential candidate Bernie Sanders.

Democrat Gillibrand launches 2020 White House bid

"If it drags on, it's a huge inconvenience for Los Angeles voters," Tulchin said. "It makes a steep climb even steeper. He's got a lot of people he's got to leapfrog."

## **NBC Los Angeles**

### **Los Angeles Teachers Strike Enters Fifth Day Amid Talks**

By: Christopher Weber

Los Angeles teachers will walk picket lines for a fifth day Friday after the union and school district officials returned to the bargaining table with hopes of ending the massive strike in the nation's second-largest school district.

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Superintendent Austin Beutner has urged the teachers to join him in pushing for more funding from the state, which provides 90 percent of the district's money.

Also covered by: [CBS Los Angeles](#), [ABC Los Angeles](#)

## LA Times

### What would a deal to end the LAUSD teachers' strike look like?

By: Howard Blume

The outlines of a deal that could resolve the three-day-old Los Angeles teachers' strike are emerging, but sticking points and animosity could stymie a quick resolution.

Whenever it happens, an agreement is likely to depend on intervention by L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, Gov. Gavin Newsom and other outside participants. A deal also could hinge on commitments of outside resources and statewide changes to education policy.

One possible version of a deal would include everything the district already has offered to reduce class sizes and provide schools with additional nurses, librarians and counselors — perhaps with a little more. The union would have to further narrow its wide array of demands. It already has yielded some ground — dropping its call, for instance, to give teachers a say in limiting the number of standardized tests their students take.

On salary, L.A. Unified is offering a 6% raise spread out over the first two years of a three-year deal. The union wants 6.5% all at once, retroactive to a year earlier. Those differences seem bridgeable, but other district employees already have settled for 6% raises. Officials don't want to trigger a "me too" clause, which applies to other employees if teachers win a larger raise.

A pact could include expanding green space and recreational opportunities on campuses. And there could be a pilot program to create what are known as community schools — which bring together social services and other support to help the broader needs of children and families. Such campuses would have full-time nurses, mental health services, perhaps health clinics. They would offer a rich curriculum that includes, for example, music, art and dance, and activities after school and on weekends. Parents and teachers would take part in key decisions about the budget, hiring and programs.

Versions of this school model are being tried out in Austin, Texas, and Cincinnati.

The effort could be paid for by state funding that is earmarked for students who come from low-income families, are learning English or are in the foster-care system. To tap into that money, this pilot project would need to serve large numbers of these students.

A deal that includes these elements would give teachers a win on the improvements

beyond salaries that they've been fighting for — and would also underline that solutions to the district's long-standing problems require a community-wide effort. Both the union and L.A. schools Supt. Austin Beutner have spoken for months in strikingly similar terms on that front.

### *Thorny issues*

Beutner had tried to narrow talks to a more routine contract negotiation over salaries.

But from the beginning, United Teachers Los Angeles wanted a more sweeping discussion, pushing to give teachers more voice and authority. The union also has called for a significant reduction in class sizes as well as schools that are “fully staffed” with librarians, nurses and counselors, who belong to the union too. UTLA proposals touch on early education, bilingual education, adult school and the teaching of children with disabilities.

In an unsuccessful last-ditch effort to avoid a strike, the district engaged on more issues and the union somewhat narrowed its demands.

A key remaining disagreement involves the district's right to increase class sizes during periods of economic hardship. The union's view is that L.A. Unified has used this provision to make class-size restrictions meaningless.

But even if this provision were eliminated, L.A. Unified could be forced to lay off teachers — and raise class sizes — if budget cuts became necessary.

The union quickly rejected the district's offers last week because the positions for new staffers that officials agreed to hire — such as full-time nurses for every elementary school — were guaranteed for only one year.

“We need nurses every year, not just for one year,” UTLA President Alex Caputo-Pearl said.

But even if these positions were designated as permanent, nothing would prevent future layoffs.

Current school board member Nick Melvoin, a Beutner supporter, and former board member David Tokofsky, who is closer to the unions, have independently suggested a middle path forward: linking long-term funding of the new positions to a campaign for a local parcel tax in 2020.

“A joint project like that, with the union, could help usher in a new era of partnership,” Melvoin said.

Caputo-Pearl has said so far that he would not support a deal with contingencies of any sort.



## *A push from outside*

Newsom's role involves both money and policy. His budget proposal would bring new resources to L.A. Unified. Based on such anticipated revenue, the district in its latest offer added \$15 million worth of new positions — to slightly shrink middle-school class sizes.

The union calculates that Newsom's budget plan would bring in \$140 million.

The governor already has pledged to push legislation to establish more oversight of charter schools, which can be privately operated and compete with traditional public schools for students and resources. Most charters are nonunion. Caputo-Pearl wants a moratorium on new charter schools.

For its part, the county on Tuesday approved a plan to find \$10 million that could be spent to provide nurses to elementary schools every day. The district currently pays for one day a week. The bigger prize could be accessing millions in mental health funding from a past statewide tax measure. That money is largely under county control, Garcetti said.

The city can bring to the table job-training funds — which can be deployed to campuses — and staffing to keep schools open on weekends as recreation centers and park spaces.

In recent days, Garcetti — who has no authority over the school system — has stepped in as a primary mediator.

## *Mutual distrust*

One topic of quiet civic debate is whether it helps or hurts to bring Beutner and Caputo-Pearl face to face. Caputo-Pearl has made Beutner — a wealthy businessman with no background in education — a target of intensely personal and sometimes demonstrably false attacks. At times, the onslaught has gotten to Beutner, who can get prickly, according to people who've worked with him. On Tuesday, Beutner abruptly walked out of a news conference after losing his cool over aggressive questions from reporters.

A respected local philanthropist, Beutner has not shown a deft touch in the give and take of negotiation, announcing proposals to the media before presenting them to the union. Such actions heightened tension.

Union leaders have never trusted Beutner because of how he came to the job. He was narrowly hired in May by a school board majority elected with substantial financial support from charter-school advocates. A key vote was cast by Ref Rodriguez, who was under criminal indictment but held off his resignation just long enough to help get Beutner in.

The distrust is mutual. Beutner believes the union was determined to strike from the moment he took the job and probably long beforehand.

Already mistrustful of Beutner, the union is particularly anxious about his confidential reorganization plan for the nation's second-largest school system.

Garcetti said this strategic plan should become a vehicle for collaboration. Beutner should back up, the mayor said, and bring the union into the planning process. The union then should participate in good faith, not just to tear Beutner down, Garcetti said.

The union's harsh rhetoric about Beutner has made this path difficult, with many teachers now demanding his departure.

Beutner said in a Wednesday interview that he sometimes feels like a marionette in a drama between the union and the state, which controls the purse strings for education.

As he spoke, his cellphone rang. It was Newsom. Beutner stepped out. When he returned from the conversation, he said there was no news that he was able to disclose.

## **LA Times**

### **Who could come out strong in the LAUSD teachers' strike when all is said and done?**

By: Howard Blume

A week ago, Los Angeles schools Supt. Austin Beutner went to Sacramento to nail down support for the school district if teachers decided to go on strike.

He came back sounding very optimistic that lawmakers understood the district's finances were so perilous that it could not afford what the teachers were demanding.

But the images of teachers marching in the rain, often cheered by parents and students, have amounted to powerful politics in this blue state, and have weakened the district's hand.

The teachers have told personal stories that many find hard to argue with: that too many students shouldn't be crowded into classes, that schools should have nurses on hand every day. And that has up to now trumped Beutner's grim financial diagnosis, even though it was largely endorsed by a county oversight agency.

Now, some lawmakers Beutner met with less than a week ago have scheduled a news conference Friday "in support of teachers and families to demand that LAUSD negotiate fairly."

As the L.A. teachers' strike enters its fifth day and a new round of negotiations begin,

two realities are emerging: The tremendous enthusiasm over the walkout and the toll its taking on the school system.

Inside campuses, skeleton crews of supervisors, subs and remaining workers have herded students into large spaces, showing movies and plugging students into online coursework. About two-thirds did not show up, even though many working parents depend on schools to provide childcare and even meals.

The district estimates that each day of the strike is costing \$10 million to \$15 million, and Thursday's student attendance was the lowest during the strike.

L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, whose possible entry into the 2020 presidential field has been challenged by the strike, is now trying to take a leadership role in ending it.

This was evident Thursday when he hosted negotiating teams from the school district and union at City Hall. They were the first talks in a week.

Assisted by senior aide Matt Szabo, Garcetti also has been on the phone with both parties trying to work out what a final deal might look like.

"The mayor asked and received commitment for both parties to stay at the table until they reach an agreement," said spokeswoman Andrea Garcia on Thursday. "Mayor Garcetti has cleared his schedule and is in regular contact with both parties and state leaders, including the governor."

Given his possible presidential ambitions, the strike's outcome needs to be a win, and preferably a quick win. Garcetti had paid limited attention to the nation's second-largest school district until the labor unrest.

Gov. Gavin Newsom seemingly has much less at risk than Garcetti, but he, too has been pulled into the fray.

Thanks to higher tax revenues, his new budget proposal for the state delivers added funds that could contribute to a settlement. He also faces pressure from a key ally — teachers unions — to do something to control charter schools — either by increasing oversight over them or limiting their growth, or both.

Politics around charters are tricky though; both unions and charter supporters are powerful special interests.

United Teachers Los Angeles, whose power in L.A. schools had been diminished by the rise of charter schools, seems to be on roll this week. But that might not last.

The organizing momentum has energized members. That's especially important because a Supreme Court ruling last year made all union dues and fees optional. And, at this point, members can look forward to a deal that meets or exceeds reasonable expectations.

Union President Alex Caputo-Pearl has raised the expectations of his members — and their animus toward Beutner — to a fever pitch. And yet a final deal may look a lot like the district's most recent offer in the key particulars.

Peripheral elements could prove crucial — like a pilot program using union-backed reforms. Tougher accountability for charter schools at the state level also would be something the union could sell as a win.

The length of the strike also matters, as does the unknown depth of public support. For Caputo-Pearl to win policy concessions on charters at the state level, timing could be everything.

The superintendent came into office last May on a divided vote, and the mixed loyalty is showing, too. Board President Monica Garcia has often been by Beutner's side at news conferences this week. Others on the board have been less visible.

Board member George McKenna, who voted against hiring Beutner, called this week for an immediate settlement — and he seemed to be talking to Beutner more than to the union.

Scott Schmerelson, who also voted against Beutner, issued a statement openly siding with teachers, saying he could no longer accept that board members should present a united front.

## **Washington Post**

### **The Trailer: Who's afraid of the Women's March**

By: David Weigel

I'm not going to Brussels either, and this is The Trailer.

On Friday, the Women's March will send citizen lobbyists to Capitol Hill to begin a long-term campaign for Medicare-for-all legislation. On Saturday, the group will hold a mass rally in Washington, marking the third anniversary of the movement and the release of a "Women's Agenda," a left-leaning, 10-point platform of "realistically achievable" goals.

"We're focused on an intersectional, international strategy that sets the narrative for 2020," said Linda Sarsour, one of the four co-founders of the Women's March. "You want to knock on our door and get our vote in 2020? You'd better get with the agenda."

But there's no spinning it: Women's March Inc., which has organized the largest rallies and political campaigns of the young movement, is coming into 2019 dogged by controversy. Tamika Mallory, one of the group's other co-founders, has associated with Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, has never completely denounced his anti-Semitism, and has been accused of holding her own conspiratorial beliefs about

Jews.

As The Post's Marissa J. Lang has reported, a number of marches that never relied on Women's March Inc. for support have issued statements saying they have nothing to do with Sarsour's group. The Democratic National Committee and nearly 300 other organizations that endorsed the 2017 march are no longer affiliated with it. Few actual or potential Democratic 2020 candidates are planning to wade into the crowds.

What began as an astoundingly successful grass-roots organization has become a politically fraught one, in ways that could shape Democratic politics and the 2020 primaries.

The 2017 Women's March was a seminal event for Democrats, especially those with presidential ambitions. In speeches and memoirs, many of them have referred to the event as the beginning of a real resistance to the Trump presidency, even more than the surprisingly successful health-care rallies that took place before the inauguration.

It was a clear, heroic story line: First women marched, then they organized, and then they won. They drew a direct line from the 2017 rallies, organized by Women's March, to the 2018 campaign, which the Women's March engaged in through rallies and voter registration drives, to the victory that created the largest class of women in Congress.

"No one could move, but everyone seemed to understand that the march was a glimpse of a new kind of coalition whose true strength had yet to be tested," Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) wrote in her new memoir, about the Washington march.

"On a cold, bright, Saturday morning, something special was happening," Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) wrote in her own memoir, about a women's march in Boston. "I knew that we had tens of millions of people with us and that this fight would be our fight."

Neither Harris nor Warren will participate in a women's march event this weekend. Representatives for most of the Democrats seen as likely 2020 candidates said that they would not be at the events — not citing the controversy, but tacitly acknowledging that the march was no longer the sort of event they must participate in. Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) said in a short interview that she will be attending a funeral; a spokesman for Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.), who attended the 2017 march in Washington, said he will be traveling Saturday.

The Democrats who are going to march this weekend have also had to tread carefully. A spokesman for Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** noted that he will be attending a march that is not affiliated with Women's March Inc. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) will attend a Women's March-affiliated event in Des Moines; asked first by BuzzFeed's Ruby Cramer, she responded to the anti-Semitism controversy by emphasizing that local organizers were running the event she'd be attending.

“Senator Gillibrand strongly condemns anti-Semitism from anyone, in all forms, and believes it has no place in a movement for women's empowerment or anywhere else,” her campaign said.

On its own, attending or skipping one march shouldn't say much about a candidate, and schedule conflicts can be real. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt), who spoke at the 2017 march in Burlington, has not ruled out attending a march this weekend, but just two weeks ago he hosted Sarsour and Women's March co-founder Bob Bland at his Senate swearing-in party. (Sarsour worked on Sanders's 2016 presidential campaign.) And Gillibrand has never distanced herself from the national organization.

“Senator Gillibrand has been an ally to us and a leader on a number of fights,” said Winnie Wong, a Women's March organizer focusing on the Medicare-for-all lobby day.

Every time a party gains power, it reassesses its relationship to grass-roots organizers, and those organizers become bigger, more important targets for critics. Democrats have to deal with an inevitable and sticky fact of politics — associating with activists or politicians who come under fire for their own associations or remarks. For some Republicans, the ostracization of Rep. Steve King (R-Iowa) over his racist remarks was meant to signal that their party policed itself and Democrats did not.

“I've watched Democrats being accused of different crimes,” House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) said after stripping King of his committee assignments. “I've watched Democrats say things that are offensive to all Americans. The real challenge here: I've watched the Speaker be silent.”

McCarthy did not name names, but within days, the New York Post and the Washington Examiner had published columns asking why, if Republicans could condemn King, Democrats could not condemn new Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.), a Palestinian American who had asked whether supporters of legislation to punish boycotts of Israel “forgot what country they represent.”

On Thursday, McCarthy and other House GOP leaders asked Democrats to condemn a 2012 tweet in which Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.), a new member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said that Israel had “hypnotized the world” and to distance themselves from Omar's support for the “boycott, divestment, and sanctions” movement. (Omar has pointed out that her tweet was opposing airstrikes Israel was carrying out across the Gaza Strip.)

“Pelosi must make Tlaib pay a price for her use of the language of Jew-hatred,” Jonathan Tobin wrote in the New York Post. “If she doesn't, it won't just be a matter of hypocrisy but a sign of the growing tolerance for anti-Semitism on the left.”

Plenty of liberal-leaning writers have pushed back on the idea that supporting BDS is anti-Semitic; Republicans have replied by pointing out that Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) says that it is. The Democratic Party's shift to the left since

2016 hasn't met much resistance from its establishment and didn't stop it from winning the midterms. But many campaigns have been tripped up by associations, both by having them and by seeming skittish if they ended them.

Women's March Inc. is plowing ahead, cognizant of how the controversy has altered its role. It's no longer part of the cadre of liberal groups that Democrats will comfortably line up with.

"This is a social movement, a decentralized protest movement, focused on building institutional power and capacity," Wong said. "Trump and his cronies are doing a good job of derailing what the new House had wanted to focus on. The shutdown has been a massive distraction. And so, once again, the Women's March is leading and bringing the focus where it should be, while Democrats have been sidetracked."

## **LA Times**

### **LAUSD teachers' strike, Day 4: Talks reopen, attendance falls, losses mount**

By: Sonali Kohli and Howard Blume

Negotiations resumed Thursday for the first time in a week to settle the teachers' strike in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

The venue was City Hall; the start time was high noon.

More than nine hours later the two sides were still in talks in the mayor's office, union leaders said.

To underscore a renewed sense of purpose, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** opened the talks by meeting with Alex Caputo-Pearl, the president of United Teachers Los Angeles, and L.A. schools Supt. Austin Beutner. Caputo-Pearl and Beutner made a joint commitment not to divulge details.

Then the negotiating teams for each side went to work.

Caputo-Pearl recounted some permissible details during an early evening news conference at union headquarters that was striking for its toned-down rhetoric.

In the days leading up to the strike, the union had sharply attacked Beutner for releasing proposals to the media before discussing them with the union's bargaining team. In fact, the union has attacked Beutner for many things, making him a focus of the strike.

But on Thursday, Caputo-Pearl was more conciliatory.

"We're going to be combative when we need to be combative," he said in an interview after the news conference.

He declined to describe what the bargaining teams discussed and who from the

mayor's office was present.

He also said that the union would continue to press Gov. Gavin Newsom and the state for more funding.

Although heavy rain dampened the turnout at some picket lines Thursday, the job action is in full force, exacting a toll on teachers, families and the school district.

On Wednesday, fewer than a third of students came to school, the lowest number since the strike began, according to preliminary attendance figures. L.A. Unified officials have estimated the cost of the strike at \$10 million to \$15 million per day because state funding is based on student attendance.

Beutner had said for days that he was ready to resume bargaining.

The last round of talks between the L.A. teachers union and the district broke off last Friday. Since then, union leaders have been consumed with strike logistics and events. These included a protest Wednesday night outside the home of school board President Monica Garcia that was organized by a parents group closely allied with the union.

On Thursday morning, a few dozen picketers tried to get a break from the rain and warm up with hot coffee and donated conchas under a canopy in front of 99th Street Elementary.

Robin Longino, a second-grade teacher at the school, said it was encouraging that talks were resuming and hoped there would be an agreement soon.

"We just hope that the district comes with something demonstrably different than last week," she said, adding that she hoped Beutner would be in the room.

"We're just ready for this to be over," Longino said.

Another second-grade teacher, Yosana Joaquin, said she felt optimistic that she'd be in the classroom next week.

"I feel like we're going to be back on Tuesday," she said.

Longino said she felt the strike had been a long time coming and sometimes teachers "have to flex our power" to get meaningful change.

"This is the result of neglect for the last 30 years," she said.

The school was hit harder on its first day of striking than most others because classified staff participated in a sympathy strike. But those staffers were back at work Tuesday, and by Thursday the school had reached a strike routine of sorts.



About 575 students are enrolled at 99th Street. About 30% have been going to school.

Principal Marissa Borden gave each passing student a fist bump Thursday morning as they walked by picketers and into the auditorium — for attendance and to eat burritos for breakfast.

The principal remained in the auditorium, along with a number of school classified staff. After breakfast, those in first through third grades stayed in the auditorium doing what was described as a social-emotional learning activity. They sat at long blue tables, talking to each other about how they would deal with difficult situations, like if a classmate “calls you a mean name” or “your sister is bossing you around.”

About 10 special education students have been coming each day. They were in two classrooms with five classified staff who regularly work with them. One substitute oversaw the two classrooms, connected by an open door.

She lives nearby and supports teachers but says she “couldn’t say no” when asked to help with the special education students.

“The rain on top of the strike is impacting attendance,” said Ryan Smith, chief external officer for the Partnership for L.A. Schools, which oversees 99th Street school.

On Thursday, attendance was 136, down from 240 Wednesday, Borden said.

The assistant principal and a credentialed local district employee oversaw fourth-through sixth-graders in two classrooms. The students were working quietly on online reading programs, said Assistant Principal Angela Killens.

Caputo-Pearl repeated Thursday night that negotiations could stretch into the weekend, and said the union was ready to stay at the bargaining table, and to stay on strike, for as long as necessary to reach an agreement.

“We’ve been at this for 21 months and there are some very fundamental issues that there are key difference on,” he said.

He encouraged educators, parents and students to show up at Grand Park Friday morning for a “massive” rally featuring performances from Aloe Blacc and Tom Morello, among others.

“Our bargaining team needs 50,000 people sending them into bargaining with strength,” he said.

UTLA Vice President Cecily Myart-Cruz appealed to members to stay strong despite the rain.

"I know that you're tired and you're weary, but we need you to be strong. This is our moment," she said. "We are on the right side of this fight so stay strong, stay connected and let's win this."

## **Reuters**

### **Talks resume as Los Angeles teachers' strike runs for fourth day**

By: Steve Gorman

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Negotiators for striking Los Angeles teachers and America's second-largest school district returned to the bargaining table on Thursday for the first time since talks collapsed last week, as a walkout by some 30,000 educators ran for a fourth day.

The teachers, who have gone without a contract for nearly a year, walked off the job on Monday in their first strike against the Los Angeles Unified School District in 30 years, demanding higher pay, smaller classes and more support staff.

They also have called for curbs on LAUSD's steady expansion of independently managed charter schools, arguing that these schools divert resources from traditional classroom instruction.

School District Superintendent Austin Beutner has said the demands, if fully met, would place too great a strain on the district's budget. The union's president, Alex Caputo-Pearl, has insisted sufficient funding is available given the right priorities.

At a news conference several hours after talks resumed, Caputo Pearl said bargaining teams were still at the table and that negotiations were likely to continue through Friday and into the weekend.

"An agreement is not going to take shape overnight," he told reporters. "It's not going to be a quick and easy process, but today there's been good and hard work on that."

Pressed on how long a settlement might take, he added, "I can tell you this is not going to be months."

A district spokeswoman, Shannon Haber, declined comment.

The strike has disrupted classes for nearly 500,000 students, though parents have turned out in large numbers to join teachers on picket lines and at their rallies. A recent Loyola Marymount University survey showed broad public support for the union's cause across all demographics, especially among parents with school age children.

District officials have kept all 1,200 schools open on a limited basis with a skeleton staff, but attendance has been running at roughly a third of normal or less each day.

**CLASS SIZE CITED AS KEY OBSTACLE**

Contract talks that had stretched on for 21 months broke down last Friday night after the union rejected the district's latest offer.

A breakthrough came Wednesday night when Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who has voiced support for the teachers' cause, announced both sides had agreed to reopen negotiations on Thursday, subject to mediation by his office.

The day began at City Hall with a brief, private meeting between Garcetti, Beutner and Caputo-Pearl, who pledged to keep negotiations confidential and to bargain in good faith, the union president recounted. Negotiations formally resumed a short time later, Caputo-Pearl said.

He cited disagreement over teachers' demands to hire more instructors to reduce class size as "arguably the most fundamental" stumbling block to a settlement. The two sides are closer on salary.

The union is seeking a 6.5 percent pay raise. School district teacher pay currently averages \$75,000, according to state figures. The district has offered a 6 percent hike with back pay.

Caputo-Pearl said each side has been in touch California Governor Gavin Newsom, a Democrat, and the state's top education official, Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond, both of whom could prove pivotal in securing extra funds to help close a deal.

"I think the governor is going to play a key role," the union president said.

Thousands of striking teachers and supporters fanned out across the sprawling district for a series of rallies and picketing again on Thursday.

The walkout in Los Angeles follows a wave of teacher strikes last year across the United States over pay and school funding, including work stoppages in West Virginia, Oklahoma and Arizona.

*Also covered by: [KNX](#), [LA Weekly](#), [KQED](#), [Telemundo](#)*

## **Washington Post**

### **Los Angeles teachers union, school district head back to the bargaining table on fourth day of strike**

By: Moriah Balingit

The Los Angeles teachers union and school district leaders are set to restart negotiations Thursday, the fourth day of a historic teacher strike that has affected about 600,000 students in the nation's second-largest school system.

Thursday's talks come after a months-long impasse between the Los Angeles Unified

School District and United Teachers Los Angeles that led educators to strike Monday. The union is demanding that the school system hire more teachers to reduce class sizes and that it add nurses, counselors and librarians to schools. Superintendent Austin Beutner, who was hired last year to get the district's finances in order, has said that meeting the union's demands would bankrupt the school system, whose budget already is burdened by pension payments and the rising cost of employee health care.

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** (D) has remained largely out of the fray in the politically fraught showdown. The fight pits the teachers union, a powerful force in state politics, against a school board and a superintendent backed by wealthy advocates of charter schools. The union has accused Beutner of favoring charter schools, which have drawn students and resources away from traditional public schools.

But on Wednesday, Garcetti's office announced in a brief statement that it would hold talks between the groups at Los Angeles City Hall, the same building where tens of thousands of teachers rallied Monday.

"Following discussions with the leadership of UTLA and LAUSD, both parties have agreed to resume bargaining," the office said in the statement. "The Mayor's Office will facilitate these negotiations."

Declining enrollment and increasing pension and health-care expenses have led the district to cut costs. Average class size hovers between 35 and 40 students for middle and high schools, and many classrooms are so crowded that students sit on the floor. Many schools have only part-time nurses or librarians. Psychologists and counselors say they, too, are overburdened.

District officials moved closer to satisfying the union's demands as teachers threatened to strike. Last week, freshly inaugurated Gov. Gavin Newsom (D), who was elected with the backing of teacher's unions, proposed putting \$3 billion in the state budget to help Los Angeles and other cities with pension payments. The move freed up millions of dollars for Los Angeles schools. On Friday, the district presented an offer to the union that included hiring teachers to reduce class sizes by a couple of students in middle and high schools, and providing a librarian for every middle school.

The union rejected the offer, saying that many of those changes would be short-lived. Union officials have not returned to the bargaining table since last Friday, despite pleas from Beutner and Newsom.

"This impasse is disrupting the lives of too many kids and their families. I strongly urge all parties to go back to the negotiating table and find an immediate path forward that puts kids back into classrooms and provides parents certainty," Newsom said Monday.

## **New York Times**

### **At Los Angeles Teachers' Strike, a Rallying Cry: More Funding, Fewer Charters**

By: Jennifer Medina

LOS ANGELES — Maria Lopez had to rush off for her job at a nearby laundromat. Carmen Vasquez did not want her son to ruin his perfect attendance and needed to get to the home across town where she cleans a couple of times a week. Aurelia Aguilar needed to get to the restaurant where she cooks and serves.

Their children were a few of the hundreds who poured into Virgil Middle School on Thursday morning, the fourth day of an enormous teachers' strike in the nation's second-largest school district. Their families could not pay for child care and were too worried to leave students at home alone. Just a few miles away, in a well-off Silver Lake elementary school, there were fewer than a dozen students in attendance; most parents could afford to keep their children out of school.

"What choice do I have? This is the best place for her to be," Ms. Aguilar said. "I hope, I pray, the teachers get what they want and come back soon."

After more than a year of protracted negotiations, the district's 30,000 public schoolteachers walked out demanding higher pay, smaller class sizes and more support staff for students. But the union is also using the strike as a way to draw attention to what it sees as the growing problem of charter schools, saying that they siphon off students and money from traditional public schools.

Part of the issue here is school finances: Though California is one of the richest states in the country, it also has the highest poverty rate in the nation, when cost of living is factored in. And though it is a bastion of liberal policies, its urban public school systems are the most hurt by the state's limits on how much money can be raised in property tax.

As in many urban school districts, the overwhelming majority of students in Los Angeles public schools are poor — more than 80 percent qualify for free or reduced price lunch. Los Angeles's sizable wealthy population has for decades largely chosen to send its children to private schools or to nearby cities, like Beverly Hills or Culver City, with higher performing schools.

For generations, California has spent less on public schools than many other states, despite Democratic control and an influential state teachers' union. The state spent about half as much as New York did on the average student in 2016, the last year for which federal comparisons were available. Even now, with a \$209 billion state budget with record-high reserves, that appears unlikely to drastically change. After decades of funding shortages, educators say that Los Angeles and other urban schools need far more than what they currently have to educate some of the neediest students in the country.

About one-fifth of students in the Los Angeles district are learning English and

roughly 15 percent need special education services. The district is also highly segregated: Latinos account for roughly 75 percent of all students; about 7 percent are white and about 8 percent are African-American. Class sizes in the district often top 40 students, well above the national average for urban schools, which ranges between 16 and 28. Teachers say large classes are particularly challenging in schools with high-needs students.

This week, just a small fraction of the district's half a million students have shown up to schools; on Thursday, roughly 84,000 students were in attendance. But district officials say that schools with a larger proportion of the neediest students have had higher attendance rates.

The chronic funding shortage for California's large urban school systems is primarily because of the state's property tax law. Voters passed Proposition 13 in 1978, capping property taxes and drastically limiting the amount of money the state could collect for public schools. The law has led to smaller, more affluent communities raising money with local bonds or parcel taxes, something that is virtually impossible in poorer urban districts like Los Angeles.

But despite widespread agreement from education experts that the law harms low-income schools, it is widely seen as a third rail of state politics and changing it would require statewide voter approval. There is now an effort, supported by both district and union leaders in Los Angeles, for a 2020 ballot measure that would change the law to increase commercial property taxes, but not change the law for homeowners.

Still, Democratic leaders are facing pressure to find significantly more money for public schools. The scrutiny is now turning to Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and Gov. Gavin Newsom. Austin Beutner, the superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District, has suggested that the mayor use some of the city's budget to help pay for student services. And many observers say that an agreement between the union and the district will ultimately require more money from Mr. Newsom's budget.

Although the union and Mr. Beutner agreed that the state should spend more on public schools, they are locked in a bitter fight over how the district should use the money it already has — and cannot agree on how much that is.

The union has pointed to a nearly \$2 billion reserve, which it says could be used to pay for more educators so that class sizes are significantly smaller and that all schools have full-time nurses, counselors and mental health professionals. But Mr. Beutner has said the district is already spending far more than it brings in. A state-appointed fact-finder supported both claims, and both sides have pointed to the report to bolster their arguments.

Mr. Beutner has been steadfast in his support for charters, saying they give parents more choices and are an essential option in Los Angeles. But Mr. Beutner has pushed back at the union's claim that he wants to shut down traditional public schools.

Mr. Garcetti has said he supports the teachers; on the first day of the strike, he said he was “immensely proud of Los Angeles’s teachers today for standing up for what I believe is a righteous cause.” But the mayor has also embraced his role as mediator between the union and district. On Thursday, Mr. Beutner and Alex Caputo-Pearl, the president of the union, met face-to-face for the first time in nearly 10 days, but negotiations appeared to remain at an impasse.

Education politics in largely Democratic California are vastly different than in the six states where teacher walkouts took place last year. In those states, picketing teachers traveled to capitols to demand that lawmakers, largely Republicans, raise taxes and increase education funding.

In contrast, the Los Angeles strike has been organized by a strong union against its bosses: the superintendent and the Board of Education. At the city and state level, union allies sit in many of the key political seats that make decisions on education. In Sacramento, Democrats hold a new supermajority in the State Legislature.

In many ways, this is a moment of strength for the California teachers’ unions, which have won a series of electoral victories against Democratic critics who support the expansion of charter schools, which are generally not unionized. (One of the small charter school groups with a union also went on strike this week.)

Virgil began sharing its campus with a charter school two years ago, a decision that came from the district despite protests from parents and teachers. Though there were fears that Citizens of the World Charter School Silver Lake would siphon off enrollment from Virgil, that has not happened. Instead, Virgil’s principal, William Gurr, said the school is “bursting at the seams.”

The populations of the two schools are markedly different. While nearly all students at Virgil qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, the same is true for 45 percent of students at Citizens of the World.

Though he supports charter schools, Mr. Gurr says he is still frustrated when he sees that the charter he shares a campus with has far more space.

He has gone to great lengths to find ways to pay for many of the things the union is demanding for all schools: a nurse, a social worker and academic counselors. “These are things that enable the students to learn on a normal school day,” he said.

This week, more than 220 of Virgil’s seventh graders gathered in the auditorium for geometry with Linda Lee, one of the assistant principals. Though Dr. Lee was prepared, with a movie-theater-size screen to display the lesson and a booming microphone, it was impossible to keep the students quiet for the nearly 90-minute period.

“Miss, Miss, Miss,” one student shouted, as he struggled to hear Dr. Lee.

As she sat near the back of the auditorium, Angie Hernandez, 13, found it hard to focus over the din of chattering students. But in some ways, it did not feel all that different than her usual classes, which have often swelled to 40 and are sometimes so crowded that there are not enough desks for students.

"It's challenging for sure," she said.

## **LA Daily News**

### **LAUSD School Board member Schmerelson goes his own way on Beutner's handling of strike: 'I couldn't keep quiet anymore'**

By: Sarah Favot

A Los Angeles Unified School District board member representing the West San Fernando Valley criticized Superintendent Austin Beutner's handling of this week's massive strike, arguing there is more money to fulfill some of the teachers' contract demands in what has become the first walkout in the giant school system in 30 years.

Board member Scott Schmerelson issued a statement this week pledging his support to teachers on the picket lines. It highlighted the rift on the school board among those who do and who don't support Beutner and their views on how he's handling the strike, which enters its fifth day on Friday.

"I can no longer allow Mr. Beutner to speak for me or to suggest that the massive public relations, and often misinformation, campaign that he is waging represents my views about the current teachers strike," Schmerelson wrote.

Schmerelson, a retired district teacher and principal, is often aligned with the United Teachers Los Angeles, the union representing the nearly 30,000 teachers who are picketing across L.A. this week. He was one of two board members who opposed Beutner's appointment last spring.

Beutner repeatedly has said that the district cannot afford the union's demands and if it agreed to the union's proposal it would cause the nation's second-largest school district to become insolvent. Those demands include smaller class sizes, more nurses and counselors and a pay bump. The superintendent has said the district's \$1.8 billion in reserves has already been allocated, including for employee raises, and will be used to fill a \$500 million operating budget deficit over the next few years.

Schmerelson said the superintendent can find more money in the budget and can use more of the reserve fund to pay for some of the union's demands.

"I believe that there are resources available to end this strike," he wrote.

Beutner did not respond to a request for comment.

Schmerelson does not often speak publicly about the happenings of the school



board, but he said Thursday in an interview he could no longer remain silent.

"I just couldn't keep quiet anymore when I keep reading more and more about what's happening with negotiations," Schmerelson said. "There's a point in everyone's life where you have to speak up or you're going to explode."

Schmerelson called himself the pariah of the school board saying only he and board member George McKenna support the teachers.

McKenna also released a statement Wednesday.

"I am prepared to join with Mr. Schmerelson and at least two other board members in solidarity to approve a reasonable offer to end the strike NOW," McKenna wrote.

McKenna also opposed Beutner's hiring.

Ultimately, the school board must approve any contract agreement.

School board member Kelly Gonez, who represents the East San Fernando Valley, issued a statement Thursday saying she supports the core demands of the teachers union for smaller class sizes, better pay and more support services in schools like counselors, nurses and librarians.

"Today, as both sides return to the negotiating table, we have the opportunity to reach a fair resolution," she wrote. "I have been advocating internally and externally for such a deal and my community can count on me to support a reasonable compromise."

School Board President Monica Garcia has appeared at news conferences with Beutner.

On the district's fiscal health, Schmerelson said the district has often projected budget deficits that have never materialized.

He was hopeful about Gov. Gavin Newsom's budget proposal saying more money was coming into the district.

He praised L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti** for his involvement in the negotiations as well as state Superintendent Tony Thurmond and Newsom.

Garcetti appeared to bring both sides back to the negotiation table Thursday. Talks resumed at City Hall after stalling a week ago when the union rejected the district's offer. Thurmond and Newsom have been in communication with the district and the union offering their support to help broker a deal.

"We've got a threesome that's unbeatable," he said.

**KCRW**

**Former LAUSD board member and teacher: The district is not going bankrupt**

By: Madeleine Brand

Negotiations between LAUSD and teachers are continuing with no clear end in sight. Both sides seem unwilling to budge on key issues, like class size and staffing. Mayor **Garcetti** has offered to mediate the negotiations.

David Tokofsky, education strategist and former LAUSD school board member and teacher, says both sides have been talking past each other for months, nearly since Austin Beutner arrived as superintendent.

"I think they have to get real about their expectations and their language. The school district has been provoking by saying there's no money, and perpetuating this story that there's a fiscal cliff in three years and the system is going to go bankrupt. And the union has found \$1.8 billion and has used that figure. But it's safer to see that number as half of that," he says.

Tokofsky points out that some of the \$1.8 billion is going toward teachers' pay raises and other matters, but the district makes it seem as if none of the money is available.

Tokofsky is confident that the district is not going bankrupt. He says that for the 12 years he was at LAUSD, talk of bankruptcy was constant. He cites a moment in 2008 when the district faced a budget crisis and massive layoffs. At the time, President Obama provided more than \$1 billion in rescue funds. Governor Brown has also brought money into schools through propositions. "So I don't buy this 'we're all going to fall off the cliff' rhetoric," he says.

When it comes to class sizes, Tokofsky believes the district could reduce sizes in fourth and fifth grades by eight kids.

The other big sticking point is charter schools.

This week, teachers marched at the charter school headquarters. It seems like an impasse, but Tokofsky says there must be a way to increase district involvement in creating charter schools.

For example, if someone wanted to create a charter school focusing on science, they could hypothetically go to the district first and ask them for help.

But Tokofsky says that's not how it currently works. "Instead everybody sends them to the charter office, and three months later, they come out of the intestine of the charter office, and they're a charter school, and they take revenue from the general fund."

Tokofsky doesn't think the strike will be settled any time soon and could even go on through next week.

## KPCC

### **Amidst FBI probe into City Hall corruption, we debate a revived proposal to City Council limiting developer's political donations**

A handful of council members on Tuesday proposed a ban on campaign contributions from real estate developers of significant projects.

Developers covered by the proposed restrictions include those whose projects would add or construct more than 4,000 square feet of residential floor area or 15,000 square feet of commercial space.

The council members also want to look for ways to restrict developers from making contributions to favored causes supported by officials, donations known as "behested payments."

Councilman David Ryu authored the new motion calling for the restrictions on developers' campaign contributions and behested payments, a move backed by council members Paul Koretz, Mike Bonin, Paul Krekorian, Nury Martinez and Joe Buscaino and seconded by Council President Herb Wesson. The motion seeks to ban contributions from certain developers from the time of their planning applications until 12 months after they are finally resolved.

This motion is the second of its kind. A previous motion from early 2017 expired over the recent council recess. Ryu's office hopes the latest motion, which for the first time calls for steps banning behested payments from developers, will move more quickly.

Read the full LAist story [here](#).

In 2017, KPCC investigated millions of dollars in behested payments raised by Mayor **Eric Garcetti** from individuals, businesses and foundations. Read the series [here](#).

## GUESTS:

Nicholas Greif, chief of staff for Councilmember David Ryu, who represents Council District 4, which stretches from Sherman Oaks through Griffith Park to Miracle Mile; he helped draft this legislation

Mott Smith, principal with Civic Enterprise Development, a mid-sized developing firm based in L.A., and adjunct professor in the USC Price School of Public Policy

Derek Muller, associate professor of law at Pepperdine University where his work focuses on election and campaign finance law

## LA Times

### **Big earthquake would topple countless buildings, but many cities ignore the danger**

By: Rong-Gong Lin II

The Northridge earthquake that hit 25 years ago offered alarming evidence of how vulnerable many types of buildings are to collapse from major shaking.

It toppled hundreds of apartments, smashed brittle concrete structures and tore apart brick buildings.

Since then, some cities have taken significant steps to make those buildings safer by requiring costly retrofitting aimed at protecting those inside and preserving the housing supply.

But many others have ignored the seismic threat. And that has created an uneven landscape that in the coming years will leave some cities significantly better prepared to withstand a big quake than others.

Other than hospitals, state government has generally not set any mandatory rules for earthquake retrofits, and that has left it up to city and county governments to make decisions about seismic risks.

And because the public generally doesn't keep tabs on municipal retrofit laws, many could be in the dark about which cities might be more dangerous than others in an earthquake.

And that's unlikely to change — until a big earthquake hits.

"We can't afford a patchwork of California cities, some of which save lives, and others which lose lives," said Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who authored the nation's most sweeping earthquake retrofit law, which will require 15,000 buildings to be retrofitted, and is pushing for a more uniform approach for seismic safety.

The move to retrofit vulnerable buildings was led by San Francisco and Los Angeles. But getting medium-sized and smaller cities to join the effort has been a mixed bag, with some officials expressing concerns over passing on the costs to building owners and perhaps to renters.

Los Angeles has a mandatory seismic retrofit law for wood-frame apartments and concrete buildings. Long Beach, the county's second-largest city, does not, and neither do the rest of L.A. County's 10 largest cities by population: Santa Clarita, Glendale, Lancaster, Palmdale, Pomona, Torrance, Pasadena and El Monte.

San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley and Fremont require apartments with flimsy ground-floor construction to be strengthened. Yet other Bay Area cities in the heart of California's booming tech region, including Palo Alto and Burlingame, have not acted.

San Jose, California's third-largest city, doesn't even know where its vulnerable buildings are located, but it has applied for a grant to create an inventory.

On the Westside, Santa Monica, West Hollywood and Beverly Hills have all passed some kind of retrofit law recently, following reports about the danger from faults that run through the area. But in the South Bay, Torrance, Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach and Manhattan Beach have not. Neither have some older cities in Orange County, including Anaheim, Fullerton and Santa Ana.

Many Inland Empire cities haven't even completed retrofits or demolitions of their old brick buildings, a hazard that had been more comprehensively resolved elsewhere by the 1990s. Ontario has changed its outlook: Officials are now creating a new inventory of all types of seismically vulnerable buildings.

Some cities, such as Alhambra, take their cues from what Los Angeles County requires of buildings in unincorporated regions not ruled by a city government — such as East L.A., Florence-Firestone and Hacienda Heights. But L.A. County has not passed any recent retrofit laws for the unincorporated area, where 1 million people live.

It's possible state officials may step in. With a new governor in office, Assemblyman Adrin Nazarian (D-North Hollywood) said he would reintroduce bills that were vetoed by Gov. Jerry Brown that would have provided for a tax break off the cost of retrofit of 30% for owners and mandated local governments to create their own inventory of earthquake-vulnerable buildings. Brown said he was concerned about how much both bills would cost the government.

But the veto of the inventory law caused momentum in some cities to evaporate.

Officials have long known exactly what type of buildings are likeliest to collapse in an earthquake, yet have spent a generation or more not requiring them to be fixed. It's time that has been lost even as so much wealth has been created in just the last 25 years, said Tom Tobin, former executive director of the California Seismic Safety Commission.

"The length of time it's going to take us to recover from a large earthquake — the economic damage, the social disruption, the loss of business — will set California back decades," Tobin said. "And it will be a price that we will pay for decades to come."

A U.S. Geological Survey simulation of a magnitude 7.8 earthquake in Southern California said 50 brittle concrete buildings housing 7,500 people could completely or partially collapse, and five high-rise steel buildings — of a type known to be seismically vulnerable — holding 5,000 people could completely collapse.

Gov. Gavin Newsom, in the past, has been supportive of seismic retrofit efforts. As mayor of San Francisco, he began an effort completed by his late successor, Ed Lee, that led to a mandatory retrofit law for about 5,000 apartment buildings with a flimsy first story, typically used as a garage, carport or for a retail shop. About 200 of those "soft-story" buildings collapsed in the Northridge earthquake, including one building in

which 16 people died.

It's easy to see why it can be difficult for elected officials to act — the price tag comes first, and the public generally isn't upset until the disaster strikes. Some local officials, including those in the city of Orange, said they have no plans to make changes to its rules unless the state takes action.

"You don't get citizens marching on City Hall or the state Capitol saying, 'Save us from the earthquake,'" said Peter May, a professor emeritus at University of Washington and an expert on policies to reduce the risks from earthquakes.

Instead, elected officials have to take experts' advice and be "willing to step up and take leadership on that.... It's a political calculus that comes back to upfront costs, delayed benefits, and a lot of headaches along the way."

In some cities, there's a reluctance for government to step in. "I'm certainly not in favor of government intruding on private property rights," Highland Mayor Pro Tem Larry McCallon said. Redlands Mayor Paul Foster said mandatory retrofits represent "a huge, prohibitive expense to the private owners."

Riverside Mayor Rusty Bailey said he's heard from merchants who fear retrofits could "potentially put some businesses out of business and property owners would lose their income." San Bernardino's point person on earthquake safety issues has left the city's employment.

"It is a delicate balance of living in Southern California. Building safety is a top concern for our city, but mandatory programs can have equally profound impacts on housing and our economy," said Mike Lyster, a spokesman for Anaheim.

Several city councilmen in Torrance, a community of 147,000 people, were skeptical about implementing mandatory retrofits when they were discussed last May.

"I'm concerned about the prospect of these mandatory costs that we're passing on — some pretty large costs here, on the order of \$10,000 per unit," said Councilman Tim Goodrich. "Costs aren't just going to be absorbed by landlords; it's going to be passed on to residents. And rent has risen astronomically in the last few years."

According to Zillow, median rents in Torrance rose from \$2,500 in November 2010 to \$3,100 in November 2018.

Mayor Patrick Furey, however, said failing to take action could result in not only a high death toll, but a housing catastrophe should many older apartments be destroyed. "We have a housing crunch right now, and if we lose those houses, they're lost even longer," Furey said.

Torrance and Hermosa Beach, like San Jose, applied for a grant to do a seismic inventory. Pasadena and Mountain View are discussing potential ordinances that

would require retrofitting of some apartments. Meanwhile, Palmdale building officials say they don't believe they have any of the most vulnerable kinds of structures in the suburb.

As rents have risen, so has the value of rental properties. Between 2008 and 2018, the average value per unit for a market-rate apartment complex in Los Angeles has climbed from \$174,000 to \$280,000, according to Steve Basham, a managing analyst for CoStar Group.

A prudent use of all that equity would be to invest it into a seismic retrofit, said Heidi Tremayne, executive director of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute. "It's better to invest now."

Groups representing owners and tenants have begun to see the importance of retrofits, and the focus of many of them is how to accomplish the retrofits and finance them, rather than oppose the laws. Owners have also become increasingly aware of a California appeals court ruling placing owners liable for deaths and injury from earthquake damage.

Various cities with rent control have taken different tacks. San Francisco allows all of the cost of a retrofit to be passed down to the tenants, spread over a 20-year period. L.A. splits the cost between owner and tenant, with monthly rent hikes at no more than \$38 (the average amount passed on to tenants has actually been around \$25). Santa Monica and West Hollywood have decided to bar owners from passing on retrofit costs to tenants.

But doing nothing may not help tenants. "Not addressing this and figuring out how to make sure we're preserving safe and affordable housing, and prevent displacement, is a losing proposition," said Larry Gross, executive director of the Coalition for Economic Survival.

Some cities are offering some sweeteners for owners. Oakland's law allows owners to add one or two more units to an apartment building, above the current density cap. Oakland and Berkeley have also received funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services to help offset retrofit costs.

Experts warn that the economy of California is threatened unless more is done to keep buildings up right after a quake.

"The destruction of tens of thousands of units of housing after a big earthquake will bring on a housing crisis unlike anything we've ever seen," Garcetti said. "This is the rainy day. Spend it now before something bad happens."

**NPR**

**25 Years After The Northridge Earthquake, Is LA Ready For The Big One?**

By: Jacob Margolis

Twenty five years ago, at 4:30 a.m. on Jan. 17, 1994, the Northridge earthquake shook Angelenos from their beds. For those of us who lived through it, the memories of chaos early in the morning are unforgettable.

"We were just literally startled awake by a freight train driving right through our bedroom," said my father, Mark Margolis, who along with my sister, my mother and myself, was sleeping just about seven miles from the epicenter. "I mean the blinds that were supposed to be hanging vertical were like out horizontal. So, there was a tremendous amount of movement."

18 I was only five, and remember being pulled from my bed into the dark hallway by my parents. Our house was trashed, with everything from our shelves and inside our refrigerator thrown to the ground.

After things calmed down, we walked outside. I remember dark silhouettes of my neighbors milling about, trying to figure out what to do, just as dawn began to break and aftershocks rolled through.

When the sun rose, everyone was able to take stock of the damage.

The 6.7 magnitude earthquake destroyed freeways and buildings, cracked streets and left swaths of Los Angeles without power for a period of time.

"I remember driving down one of the main streets and there was like water coming up from the ... street because there were broken gas lines as well as broken water lines. There was water, but there were also flames coming out of the water," my dad said. "So, burning water ... I mean how often do you see that?"

At least 57 people died and \$40 billion in damage was done.

Many Angelenos were displaced for a period of time. Some people were lucky enough to stay with family and friends. Some had to live for days in parks as the structural integrity of their buildings was assessed.

*Prepared for the next one?*

Every time an earthquake hits, we learn new things about just how unprepared we are.

Since Northridge, building codes have improved and retrofit programs for hospitals, apartments and freeways have been implemented. The hope is that those improvements leave us safer. But Southern California hasn't had an earthquake strong enough to test the region in earnest anytime since.

About 7,000 miles of water pipes are currently being retrofitted by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, so that they don't crack in an earthquake. That



could mean contamination or complete loss of water to homes. Craig Davis, the Water System Resilience Program Manager, said that it will take 120 years to fix the entire system.

According to seismologists, an earthquake far bigger than Northridge could hit at anytime.

Dr. Lucile Jones was the lead author on a 2008 report called "The ShakeOut Scenario" for the U.S. Geological Survey. In it, they describe a theoretical but likely earthquake: A 7.8 magnitude temblor on the southern San Andreas fault that would be 44 times stronger than Northridge.

The report estimates that if that earthquake occurs, 1,800 people could die, buildings could collapse, an estimated \$200 billion in damage could be done and conflagrations could break out.

"Northridge was an event that disrupted the lives of people in the San Fernando Valley extensively ... disrupted our community for a year or two," Dr. Jones said. "The big San Andreas earthquake is going to disrupt the lives of everybody in Southern California and it could take us decades to recover what we lose."

LA Mayor **Eric Garcetti** has worked with Jones to implement various programs designed to improve the city's resilience. "We're better prepared for the big one than any big city in America," he says, "which is to say, we're woefully unprepared."

Limited water and overwhelmed emergency services after a big quake hits could mean large fires spreading quickly throughout the hills and neighborhoods, according to Jones. Mark Ghilarducci, director of California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, said it could take 48 to 72 hours for outside help to arrive in Southern California. Meaning, 10 million people should expect to be largely on their own for a few days after the disaster.

There is some good news: "Most of the time under most circumstances ... you're going to see people become the best version, the most altruistic version of themselves, especially in those first couple of minutes and moments after the event," said Joe Trainor, who studies disasters and crisis at the University of Delaware.

That said, to survive a major earthquake, it's important that people take steps to prepare. Stock up on water, food, medicine and make sure that there's some alternate form of shelter in case homes are unlivable. Everyone who lives in an earthquake zone should have some sort of emergency plan in place and coordinate that plan with friends and family.

*Also covered by: [Univision](#)*

**LA Daily News**

## **25 years later, local leaders gather to share lessons learned after Northridge quake**

By: Olga Grigoryants

When the Jan. 17 1994 Northridge earthquake shook his home, Cary Van Ausdall didn't have much time to assess damage to his Santa Clarita house.

Instead, as a Red Cross volunteer, he raced out to assist residents impacted by the disaster.

The 25th anniversary of the devastating earthquake, he said, is a reminder that the city should be prepared for the next big one.

"Being prepared will get you an opportunity to sleep at night," he said.

Ausdall joined local leaders at California State University, Northridge to mark the 25th anniversary of the devastating earthquake and discuss what the city has done to prepare for the next large jolt.

The 6.7 earthquake struck at 4:31 a.m on Jan. 17, 1994, killing 57 people, injuring over 5,000 residents and causing widespread damage.

State Sen. Majority Leader Bob Hertzberg, D-Van Nuys said the chances that California will experience a 6.7 or larger earthquake in the next 30 years is 99 percent.

"The only thing we don't know is where it will be when it will be and how big it will be," he said. "We have an obligation to figure out how to protect the public. Are we ready to deal with the financial cost and the human cost of the next Northridge?"

Dr. Lucy Jones, the founder of Center for Science and Society, said that "the earthquake is inevitable — but disaster is not."

It's now estimated, Hertzberg said, that 250,000 people in Southern California will be forced out of their homes after a major earthquake in the city grappling with a housing crisis.

He urged officials to "get ahead of the game."

Nearly 1.2 million households reside in hazardous areas. Retrofitting those homes can prevent families from losing everything, he said.

"We need to get smart and creative to protect people," he said.

He and other state legislators are working to expand their ability to retrofit houses by launching a \$1 billion program through refinancing and restructuring the California Earthquake Authority.

“Every dollar that we spend will save thousands and thousands of dollars tomorrow,” he said.

Los Angeles City Councilman Bob Blumenfield said knowing that President Donald Trump threatened to withhold federal relief funds during the recent California wildfires forces the city to be self-sufficient. Trump blamed “gross mismanagement” for the state’s deadly fires.

“We can’t count on the federal government to come rushing to our aid,” he said. “We’re going to rely on that as much as we can, but we need to be resilient here.”

Deputy Mayor Jeff Gorell, who advises Mayor **Garcetti** on public safety and homeland security matters, said in the recent years about 1,500 “soft-story” buildings have been retrofitted — and another 3,301 buildings have permits to do so. Soft story buildings are multi-story structures in which one or more floors have windows, doors, large commercial spaces or other areas that could call for retrofitting.

By 2024, the city is expected to have 12,865 of the buildings retrofitted.

“Even today, we have 21,000 households safer today than when these earthquake retrofit ordinances were established,” he said.

The ordinance, established in 2016, requires the retrofit of pre-1978 wood-frame soft-story buildings and non-ductile concrete buildings.

Gorell added that the city launched an app that can warn its users within Los Angeles County that a large earthquake is likely.

*Also covered by: [KNX](#)*

## **Curbed LA**

### **Why does LA’s mandatory retrofit program ignore vulnerable steel skyscrapers?**

By: Jenna Chandler

Daniel Zepeda, a structural engineer who specializes in seismic retrofitting, works in a glimmering skyscraper on Bunker Hill. The steel-framed tower opened in 1985—nine years before the Northridge Earthquake would expose the dangers of modern high-rises.

“Us engineers, we wish we could go back in time and build our buildings with the knowledge we have now,” says Zepeda.

Shaking during the Northridge Earthquake lasted for less than a minute, but it was long enough to demonstrate that critical connections in welded steel moment frames—used to construct many of Downtown LA’s towers, as well as buildings of various heights across the region since the 1960s—were too brittle.

Welded joints fractured in about 100 LA buildings during the 6.7-magnitude quake in 1994, a revelation that took engineers by surprise.

They now know that in a larger earthquake, some of these steel moment frame buildings could collapse entirely.

Building codes changed quickly after the Northridge Earthquake to require stronger connections between the beams and columns. But 25 years later, an untold number of welded steel moment frame buildings constructed prior to 1994 have yet to be inspected, repaired, or retrofitted in the city of Los Angeles.

“We wish we could convince the public that we should look at every building out there and analyze and make it stronger,” says Zepeda, a principal with Degenkolb Engineers. “But we have to be realistic. It’s probably not feasible.”

The city of Los Angeles has a robust retrofitting program that targets what Mayor **Eric Garcetti** has described as “known killers”: non-ductile concrete buildings that predate 1977, and “soft-story” wood-frame buildings erected before 1978, namely the city’s “dingbat” apartments where the first floor sits atop a carport supported by narrow columns.

When it comes to retrofitting, LA is much further ahead than some neighboring cities, including Long Beach, Torrance, and Pasadena, which do not have any mandatory seismic retrofit laws, according to the Los Angeles Times.

But the city of Los Angeles does ignore welded steel moment frames that predate Northridge.

In a city as big as Los Angeles, it would be an enormous undertaking to retrofit welded steel moment frames—not just because there are so many of them, but because the retrofits are more intense, more invasive, and more complicated than retrofits to soft-story and non-ductile concrete buildings.

Engineers say they understand why the city is prioritizing the riskiest buildings, the ones that threaten to kill the most people. (Approximately 49,000 apartment units in LA were destroyed or seriously damaged due to the Northridge earthquake; two-thirds of those were in soft-story buildings.)

But the Northridge Earthquake struck at 4:31 a.m., when most people were at home asleep. Experts question what would happen if a major earthquake, with a longer duration of shaking, struck during the day, when Angelenos were at work, in offices inside those gleaming steel skyscrapers.

It’s not just the threat of death and collapse that seismologists and engineers fear—it’s the threat of a major building being red-tagged, preventing Angelenos from going to work in the weeks or months after the quake.

“The consequences of the failure of one of those buildings would be catastrophic,” says Thomas Sabol, an adjunct professor in UCLA’s school of civil engineering, who specializes in seismic design and structural steel.

In 2008, scientists with the U.S. Geological Survey modeled a magnitude 7.8 earthquake on the southern San Andreas Fault, which they described as “a plausible event on the fault most likely to produce a major earthquake.”

Specific buildings are not named, but in that scenario, five steel moment frame high-rises that predate Northridge completely crumble—with 5,000 people inside.

A similar scenario was created in June for an earthquake striking the Bay Area. In the modeling for Northern California, scientists forecast that damage could render steel-frame high-rise office buildings “unusable for as long as 10 months.”

It also includes a list of 39 high-risk high-rises that could buckle in a major earthquake, including San Francisco’s iconic Transamerica Pyramid and the San Francisco Marriott.

The cities of Santa Monica and West Hollywood have recently taken inventory of their steel moment frame buildings. Santa Monica found 80 steel moment frame high-rises and is giving building owners 20 years to complete retrofits.

Los Angeles only has a partial list.

The city did take inventory in the months after Northridge, but it’s limited to areas of West Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley that experienced the most ground acceleration.

It also mandated inspections to 239 welded steel moment frame buildings in those areas. In buildings where damage was found, the city required owners to make repairs, including the Bullock’s building in Sherman Oaks and dozens of mid-rise buildings along Ventura Boulevard. (In a 2011 presentation, the city’s building and safety department reported that 520 buildings were affected by the mandate and 519 had complied.)

Today, structural engineers are quick to point out the limits of that mandate. It did not include other sections of the city where welded steel moment frame are prolific, including Downtown Los Angeles. And while it required repairs, it did not require retrofits.

Researchers at Caltech, who have simulated how welded steel moment frame buildings would perform in various degrees of seismic ground motion, found that buildings with fracture-prone welds “are substantially more likely to collapse than buildings with sound welds.”

Connections that have not already fractured will not be immune to damage in the future, says Thomas Heaton, director of Caltech's Earthquake Engineering Research Laboratory.

"If we do have a big earthquake, it could be an enormous problem," he says. "There's kind of a confusion that's out there. People say: 'If it's an older structure, and it doesn't have fractured connections, it's not broken, and it doesn't need to be fixed.'"

But lab tests and Northridge prove that when "the connections are called on to do their job in a big earthquake—they won't," says Heaton. "They'll break. Almost certainly."

Not all moment frame buildings are as risky as the ones constructed from the 1960s through the early 1990s. Welding was employed during those three decades to save time and money, a "departure from the bolts and rivets used in previous generations of steel buildings," according to the New York Times. There are other ways to join the beams and columns together, and while welding is common today, the technique is different.

In a report issued last year, Garcetti noted that the city eventually plans to develop recommendations for more types of structures, including steel buildings that predate Northridge. That could take 10 years to develop, according to Marissa Aho, the city's chief resilience officer.

"We're in the process of working with partners to get the next set of seismic work off the ground now," she says.

Until then, Heaton says many Angelenos might not have any clue about the risks.

"If we don't have a big earthquake, it's not really a problem," he says. "But if we do have a big earthquake, it could be an enormous problem. Frankly, I would not have an office in an older steel frame building."

Zepada, who works in one of those older steel skyscrapers, is not as anxious.

"It is more vulnerable to damage in a seismic event than a new building," he says. "[But] just because you have a deficiency in a building does not make it dangerous."

Without a formal, citywide survey, however, there's no way of knowing which buildings are dangerous.

"We would need to do an analysis of the building," says Zepada, "to determine if we are willing to live with the risk."

**FiveThirtyEight**

**What The Potential 2020 Candidates Are Doing And Saying, Vol. 2**

By: Adam Kelsey

It was a historic week. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand entered the presidential race. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard did too, sort of; she has not yet formally announced but said she plans to this week. This is the first time that at least three women will vie for the nation's most powerful office in one of the two major parties. It's already an increase from the 2016 field, which featured Hillary Clinton and Carly Fiorina. And several other women could still join the field.

Jan. 11-17, 2019

Joe Biden (D)

Asked about the possibility that Biden could run for president, President Trump told Fox News on Saturday that Barack Obama took Biden "off the trash heap" when he selected him to be his running mate. Trump went on to describe Biden as "weak." On Monday, Biden is scheduled to attend the National Action Network's Martin Luther King Jr. Day breakfast in Washington, D.C.

Cory Booker (D)

Booker questioned William Barr, Trump's attorney general nominee, on race and the criminal justice system during Barr's confirmation hearing Tuesday, objecting to Barr's earlier claim that "there's no statistical evidence of racism in the criminal justice system." The pair ultimately pledged to meet and discuss the issue further. The New Jersey senator sent best wishes via Twitter to Democratic Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand of New York after she announced her presidential exploratory committee. The two played a lighthearted game of "How Well Do You Know Your Co-Worker?" in a Marie Claire video in which Gillibrand described Booker as "Senate chiseled."

Michael Bloomberg (D)

The former New York City mayor said he hasn't made a final decision about a presidential run during the keynote address at an Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada event Tuesday. Bloomberg joked that "there's actually no rush" because, in his case, "my donor isn't walking away."

Bloomberg visited Tulsa, Oklahoma, on Thursday to announce that the city was a winner in Bloomberg Philanthropies' Public Art Challenge and meet with a local Moms Demand Action gun control group. On Monday, he is scheduled to attend the National Action Network's Martin Luther King Jr. Day breakfast in Washington, D.C., according to a spokesperson.

Sherrod Brown (D)

The Ohio senator announced Tuesday that he will embark on a "dignity of work" listening tour beginning at the end of the month, with stops in Ohio, Iowa, Nevada, New Hampshire and South Carolina. "What I want to accomplish is I want to continue to learn about the dignity of work," Brown told MSNBC. "I want [the tour] to

encourage my colleagues running for president that this should be the narrative. ... It's the best way to govern, fighting for the dignity of work, and it's the best way to win elections."

BuzzFeed News reported Thursday that Brown hired an Iowa-based former field director for Bernie Sanders's 2016 campaign, an additional sign that he may launch a campaign.

Steve Bullock (D)

The Montana governor wouldn't answer questions about his presidential plans during a Wednesday news conference in Helena. Bullock said that he is "at a great advantage to be able to do the job that I get to do, and that's what I'm focusing on."

Pete Buttigieg (D)

The South Bend Tribune previewed Buttigieg's forthcoming book Thursday, which describes his first mayoral run in 2011, his coming out story, his missteps while leading South Bend, Indiana, and his unsuccessful 2017 bid to be the chairman of the Democratic National Committee. He told the newspaper that a decision on a presidential campaign could come within the next few weeks. "For anybody who isn't already very famous, you really don't have long, past the end of this month, to make some kind of move," he said.

Julian Castro (D)

Castro officially announced his presidential candidacy Saturday in his hometown of San Antonio, where he served as mayor for three-terms. "I'm running for president because it's time for new leadership, because it's time for new energy and it's time for a new commitment to make sure that the opportunities I've had are available for every American," he said.

Following the announcement, Castro traveled to Puerto Rico where he met with San Juan Mayor Yulin Cruz, an outspoken critic of Trump, toured communities affected by Hurricane Maria and spoke at a political summit.

The former Housing and Urban Development secretary spent much of the past week in New Hampshire, with various events in Concord, Laconia, Manchester and Somersworth. At Saint Anselm College in Manchester, Castro criticized the government shutdown and argued for "compassion" in developing immigration reform. He additionally pledged universal pre-K nationwide and a recommitment to the Paris Climate Agreement.

Bob Corker (R)

Corker, a former Tennessee senator, said in an interview with Nashville Public Radio that the ongoing partial government shutdown was Trump's responsibility. "This is



one where at the last minute the president changed his mind and so now we are sitting here shut down because — just because,” he said. “This whole thing, as I’ve mentioned before, is pretty juvenile, and at some point, government will open back up.”

Asked during the interview about a potential presidential run, Corker didn’t rule it out. “It’s something to consider, and certainly I’ve got the background and knowledge levels, and hopefully intelligence and judgment and all of those kind of things to be good at it, if I was elected,” he said. “But, again, it’s not necessarily even on the front burner; it’s a possibility. There are many other things that I’m going to be thinking about over the next period of time.”

#### **John Delaney (D)**

In an interview last Sunday on ABC News’s “This Week,” Delaney said he would focus the first 100 days of a potential presidency solely on “bipartisan proposals.” The former Maryland congressman said such initiatives could include action on infrastructure and criminal justice reform. He also said that he felt his campaign (now more than 500 days old) was “going great.”

Delaney will visit New Hampshire on Friday and Saturday for meet-and-greet events in Amherst, Hanover and Manchester, according to his campaign.

#### **Tulsi Gabbard (D)**

The Hawaii congresswoman said that she has “decided to run” for president and teased a forthcoming formal announcement in an interview with CNN last Friday. Gabbard, who has served in the House since 2013 and was one of the few elected officials in Washington to support Sen. Bernie Sanders’s candidacy in 2016, said that the “one main issue” she wished to address as president was “war and peace.”

Following the announcement, Gabbard quickly faced criticism for working for an anti-gay organization led by her father in the early 2000s that touted conversion therapy and fought same-sex marriage legislation. On Thursday, she apologized in a video and series of tweets, explaining that she was raised in a socially conservative household and that her personal opinions have since changed.

#### **Eric Garcetti (D)**

Garcetti’s hands were full this week with the ongoing Los Angeles Unified School District teacher strike. The mayor, who facilitated negotiations at City Hall Thursday according to his office, earlier described the strike as “electrifying” and expressed pride in the educators for standing up for a “righteous cause,” but cautioned that there must be consideration for the district’s “fiscal health.”

#### **Kirsten Gillibrand (D)**

Gillibrand announced on Tuesday that she is forming a presidential exploratory committee, making her the second female senator, after Elizabeth Warren, to take the step toward a White House bid. In an interview on "The Late Show," where she made the announcement, the New York senator cited health care, education and economic inequality as key points of focus for her campaign. Asked what she would do on her first day in office, Gillibrand said she would "restore what's been lost — the integrity and the compassion of this country," and stressed the need for bipartisanship.

On Wednesday, Gillibrand addressed reporters outside a diner near her hometown in Troy, New York, and described her evolution from a centrist Democrat who once received an "A" rating from the National Rifle Association to a more liberal lawmaker, saying that "it's important to know when you're wrong and to do what's right."

Gillibrand will travel to Iowa this weekend for events in Sioux City on Friday and Cedar Rapids on Sunday, according to a Gillibrand campaign official. In-between, on Saturday, she'll stop in Des Moines to speak at the Iowa Women's March.

#### Kamala Harris (D)

On Thursday morning, Harris became the first member of the Senate Judiciary Committee to come out against the confirmation of attorney general-nominee William Barr. Harris tweeted that Barr's hearing indicated to her that he "won't defend independent investigations from attacks and ensure equal protection under the law for all Americans."

During the hearing, Harris was critical of Barr's role in promoting incarceration during the "war on drugs" amid his prior stints at the Justice Department.

"I would suggest to you that in the intervening almost 30 years since you were last Attorney General that there is consensus in the United States that when we look at the drug epidemic, whatever the narcotic may be, that there is now an understanding that the War on Drugs was an abject failure," Harris said.

#### Jay Inslee (D)

Next Tuesday, Inslee will visit New Hampshire for two events focused on climate change, according to a media advisory from his office — a roundtable with students at Saint Anselm College and a speech at Dartmouth College. The trip comes as some local Democratic officials have criticized Inslee for not investing in New Hampshire's 2018 gubernatorial race during his tenure as chair of the Democratic Governors Association.

#### John Kasich (R)

Upon leaving the Ohio governor's office, Kasich signed on to become a CNN political commentator. In a tweet, he said that in the position he would "be like an umpire calling balls and strikes like I've always done throughout my entire career." This

week, in one of his first appearances on the network, Kasich questioned Trump's command of the partial government shutdown and whether Democrats were seriously engaged in negotiations. "I think it's incumbent on the leader to try to bring people together and get something done, and I just don't see it," he said, adding, "I wonder a little bit if the Democrats are enjoying this, because the numbers are all going against the president."

On Friday, Kasich will be a guest on the 17th season premiere of HBO's "Real Time with Bill Maher."

Amy Klobuchar (D)

The Minnesota senator told MSNBC that she received the blessing of her family to move forward with a presidential campaign, relaying that they are "on board," should she decide to run.

The internet worked itself into a tizzy on Tuesday after a Twitter user posted what appeared to be a Klobuchar 2020 campaign logo that he said he found at a Washington, D.C. coffee shop. The senator later responded, speculating that the artwork was the work of "a very enthusiastic supporter" and joking that the design's mountains weren't geographically accurate.

During this week's confirmation hearings for attorney general-nominee William Barr, Klobuchar alluded to Watergate as she asked Barr whether "the attorney general [is] the people's lawyer or the President's lawyer."

Mitch Landrieu (D)

The Institute of Politics at Harvard Kennedy School announced on Wednesday that Landrieu would be among its visiting fellows for this year's spring term. Landrieu will join former Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter to "continue their discussion on 'Politics, Potholes, and Public Service.'"

Jeff Merkley (D)

Merkley was one of the many Democratic senators on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee who had strong words for the Environmental Protection Agency's acting administrator Andrew Wheeler during his confirmation hearing. Merkley shared his concern that "the rate [of carbon emissions] is actually accelerating despite the international conversations" and said he hopes Wheeler will "become more familiar with these issues."

Seth Moulton (D)

Citing a source close to the Massachusetts congressman, WBZ-TV reported Wednesday that Moulton is exploring the idea of a presidential bid. Moulton will visit New Hampshire on Feb. 2 for a private event with the Bedford

Democratic Committee, the group confirmed to ABC News on Wednesday.

### Beto O'Rourke (D)

O'Rourke gave an interview to the Washington Post on Tuesday that received attention more for what the former Texas congressman didn't say than for what he did. In it, O'Rourke demurred when asked for solutions on the border and Syria, calling for "debate" and "discussion," but providing few concrete details about where he personally stands on the issues.

In a Medium post published on Wednesday detailing a visit to southwest Kansas, O'Rourke admitted to being "in and out of a funk," but wrote that if he continues to travel to meet people it'll help clear his head. "Maybe if I get moving, on the road, meet people, learn about what's going on where they live, have some adventure, go where I don't know and I'm not known, it'll clear my head, reset, I'll think new thoughts, break out of the loops I've been stuck in," he wrote.

O'Rourke will be interviewed by Oprah Winfrey as part of "Oprah's SuperSoul Conversations from Times Square" on Feb. 5.

### Howard Schultz

Schultz, the former CEO of Starbucks, announced a book tour beginning later this month to promote, "From the Ground Up." Notably, stops on the tour thus far do not include cities in early-voting states.

### Bernie Sanders (D)

On Wednesday, Sanders met with women who said they experienced sexual harassment or gender discrimination while working on his 2016 presidential campaign. A read-out of the meeting provided afterward to ABC News indicated that the senator "was there to listen" and that there "is a desire to create a better process" and "put a good program in place" to combat the issues.

Sanders pointedly questioned acting EPA Andrew Wheeler at Wheeler's confirmation hearing Wednesday, pressing him about the EPA's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. "We are the strongest economy in the world, and if the leadership in the Environmental Protection Agency in the United States says to China and to Russia and to India, and to countries all over the world, that we have got to move aggressively to protect this planet for our children and our grandchildren, we can have some impact on the entire international community, are you prepared to do that?"

### Eric Swalwell (D)

The California congressman is headed to South Carolina on Saturday to speak at the

Greenville Women's March and the Spartanburg County Democratic Party's Blue Carolina Black Tie Gala, according to an adviser.

In the wake of a New York Times report that the FBI investigated whether Trump was working on behalf of Russian interests, Swalwell, a member of the House Intelligence Committee, told CNN that the question has "shifted from whether the president is working with the Russians to what evidence exists that the president is not working with the Russians?" He further criticized Trump for failing to meet personally with Special Counsel Robert Mueller.

Elizabeth Warren (D)

Warren visited Manchester, New Hampshire, last weekend — her first visit to the state since announcing her presidential exploratory committee. In public remarks, the Massachusetts senator called for "systemic change" as a course correction following the "bad decisions" currently being made in Washington. Warren returns to New Hampshire Friday for an event in Claremont.

On Sunday, Trump criticized Warren's Instagram livestream from early January quipping on Twitter that she should have done the video "from Bighorn or Wounded Knee instead of her kitchen, with her husband dressed in full Indian garb, it would have been a smash!" Native Americans condemned the tweet as racist.

## **LA Times**

### **In blow to Los Angeles, SpaceX is moving some Mars spaceship and booster work to Texas**

By: Samantha Masunaga

In a reversal of a deal local officials had touted as a win for Los Angeles tech, SpaceX will no longer build its Mars spaceship and rocket booster system at the Port of Los Angeles. Instead, work to build and test the prototype will be done in south Texas,

SpaceX said in a statement Wednesday that the decision was made to "streamline operations."

In a tweet, Chief Executive Elon Musk said: "Starship & Raptor [engine] development is being done out of our HQ in Hawthorne, CA. We are building the Starship prototypes locally at our launch site in Texas, as their size makes them very difficult to transport."

SpaceX has completed assembly of a prototype of the Starship hopper vehicle at its Boca Chica facility in south Texas, where it also plans to conduct tests in which the prototype will launch and go up in the air briefly before returning to Earth.

Musk has said the first of these tests could occur as soon as next month, though he hedged that "due to unforeseen issues" it could also happen two months from now.

The SpaceX statement said the Starship decision “does not impact our current manufacture, design, and launch operations in Hawthorne and Vandenberg Air Force Base” and that the company will “continue recovery operations of our reusable Falcon rockets and Dragon spacecraft at the Port of Los Angeles.”

SpaceX initially leased about eight acres at the Port of L.A. that it used for recovery of Falcon 9 first-stage boosters and Dragon capsules, which arrive at shore via droneships. A new deal, approved last year, would have given SpaceX use of a 19-acre site on Terminal Island. Under the terms, SpaceX was to have an initial 10-year lease at the port with two additional 10-year extension options.

A now-former SpaceX official told the L.A. Board of Harbor Commissioners last year that production and fabrication of the Mars rocket could begin there in two to three years.

But in a letter dated Jan. 7 and provided to The Times, SpaceX Chief Financial Officer Bret Johnsen told the Port of Los Angeles the company would terminate the Terminal Island lease agreement.

The move comes just days after SpaceX, saying it needed to get “leaner,” announced that it would lay off about 10% of the company’s more than 6,000 employees. About 577 employees in Hawthorne are affected, according to a state WARN Act notice dated Friday.

Though Port of L.A. officials are “disappointed that SpaceX will not be expanding their operations at the Port of Los Angeles, we are pleased that they will continue their recovery operations here,” spokesman Phillip Sanfield said in a statement.

Los Angeles City Councilman Joe Buscaino was told of the decision by company officials in a conference call late last week, said Branimir Kvartuc, a spokesman for the councilman.

In a tweet Wednesday morning, Buscaino said: “While I feel crushed about SpaceX pulling the Super Heavy out of the Port of L.A., I feel confident that other innovators will see the huge value they get in San Pedro.”

L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said last year that SpaceX told the city of L.A. it preferred to have its Mars rocket and spaceship facility close to Hawthorne. A port official told commissioners last year that SpaceX had also been looking at potential sites in Louisiana and Texas.

Other commercial space firms have operations in Texas. Blue Origin tests engines and its New Shepard rocket and capsule system at its west Texas facility, and SpaceX already has a rocket development facility in McGregor, about 18 miles west of Waco.

**LAist**

## **The Kobe Bryant Hologram Loves Tourism And Is As Surreal As You Think It Is**

By: Mike Roe

How do you announce Los Angeles hitting 50 million visitors in 2018? For Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and the L.A. tourism board, the answer is making Kobe into a hologram that really wants to talk with you about tourism.

The hologram of the Lakers great rises through the stage, gives a shoutout to the political dignitaries assembled to make the tourism announcement, and extolls the virtues of L.A.

"This right here... is a championship moment," the extremely scripted-sounding Kobe tells us. "And that's because this city is always innovating. I mean, check me out — I'm a hologram!"

He declares L.A. the sports capital of the world. Then he magically disappears in a glittery poof, because, why not?

The announcement was made as part of an L.A. tourism and hospitality gathering. The L.A. Tourism board plans to use the same company that produced the Kobe hologram for more immersive events throughout the year.

The city had been aiming to hit 50 million tourists by 2020, but managed to do it two years early. In a statement, the tourism board credits an increase in international capacity at LAX, almost 2,000 new hotel rooms, L.A. become more known for being "a hot culinary and cultural destination" — and L.A. Tourism's own ad campaign.

The number of visitors was up 1.5 million from 2017. The two biggest cities for L.A. tourism were Mexico and China, according to the tourism board — international visitors make up 7.5 million of the total, while 42.5 million were domestic.

Records were also set in L.A. visitors coming from Canada, the United Kingdom, Japan, Scandinavia, and India.

Watch a behind-the-scenes video showing how the Kobe hologram was created, including filming at Kobe's corporate offices last month: [https://youtu.be/7kgcRp\\_SrFU](https://youtu.be/7kgcRp_SrFU)

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**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2019**

1 message

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**Cate Hurley** <cate.hurley@lacity.org>  
To: Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>  
Bcc: myr.pressclips@lacity.org

Fri, Feb 1, 2019 at 7:22 AM

**Mayor Eric Garcetti**

LA TIMES: Union pressured Mayor Garcetti's office to oust top fire official, court records show

LA TIMES: L.A. school board approves teachers' contract despite financial risks

NBC LOS ANGELES: Typhus Epidemic Worsens in Los Angeles

LA TIMES: Stan Lee saluted at star-studded tribute featuring Mark Hamill and Kevin Smith

USA TODAY / AP: Stan Lee memorial: The Rock, Kevin Smith, Mark Hamill remember comic-book icon

HOLLYWOOD REPORTER: Stan Lee's Friends and Fans Pay Tearful, Funny Tribute to Their "Generalissimo"

VARIETY: Stan Lee Remembered at Hollywood Tribute: His 'Greatest Creation Was Himself'

CNET: Stan Lee gets star-studded tribute: He 'made us proud to be misfits'

UPROXX: Kevin Smith Offered An Emotional Tribute To Marvel Comics Legend Stan Lee

CURBED LA: Temporary homeless shelter planned for Fashion District warehouse

CITY NEWS SERVICE: City Council to Consider Downtown Emergency Homeless Shelter With 115 Beds

REUTERS: NFL: Super Bowl win would seal Rams return to Los Angeles

SMART CITIES DIVE: Los Angeles urges more construction of homeless-supportive housing

VICTORVILLE DAILY PRESS: Azusa Pacific nursing students join LA mayor to care for homeless

LOS FELIZ LEDGER: Some NCs Worry Boards Still Vulnerable to Abuse

KCRW: Press Play: A pay-to-play scandal at LA City Hall? (AUDIO ONLY)

AROUND THE RINGS RADIO: Olympic City Mayor to Super Bowl (AUDIO ONLY)

**LA Times**

**Union pressured Mayor Garcetti's office to oust top fire official, court records show**

By: Dakota Smith



Los Angeles Fire Marshal John Vidovich was at the peak of his career in 2015. He ran the city's Fire Prevention Bureau, oversaw more than 150 employees and won awards from Mayor **Eric Garcetti** for his department's work inspecting buildings for fire safety.

But when Vidovich clashed with a group of fire inspectors working for him, he was transferred out of the post.

That began a legal fight that exposed threats of vindictive paybacks and accusations of backroom deals involving top officials at City Hall and a powerful public employee union.

Vidovich sued the city in January 2017, alleging that Fire Chief Ralph Terrazas, Garcetti and aides to the mayor pushed him out at the behest of United Firefighters of Los Angeles City Local 112, after he exposed "illegal and fraudulent acts" by inspectors in his bureau.

Attorneys for the city defended Vidovich's transfer, arguing in court filings seeking to dismiss the case that tensions between the fire marshal and those reporting to him were disrupting the department.

The mayor's office and the union declined to comment on the lawsuit. A court hearing on a proposed settlement is scheduled for next month.

The case offers a glimpse into the interactions between the union and Garcetti's inner circle over a contentious personnel matter.

Text messages and emails in court filings show union members and its president pressured city officials to replace Vidovich, who had worked for the Fire Department for 36 years.

Ultimately, Garcetti's top aides sought to create a new position in the mayor's office for Vidovich, according to depositions the aides gave in the case.

Asked during a 2017 deposition if he knew of another time a union had approached the mayor or chief's office asking to remove someone from a department posting, Terrazas replied: "I'm not aware of any."

### *'Gangster campaign'*

Terrazas and Vidovich were longtime friends who worked together for decades. Both lived in San Pedro, where their children played soccer together.

In 2014, Terrazas appointed Vidovich to lead the Fire Prevention Bureau — a department that Terrazas acknowledged had problems. Vidovich was in charge of Operation Catch-Up, a program to reduce the backlog of buildings due for inspections of sprinklers, alarms and other life-saving equipment.

A Times investigation in 2015 of the backlog found that about 6,800 buildings were months or even years overdue for a safety review.

Problems quickly developed between Vidovich and those he supervised at the bureau.

Vidovich testified in his deposition that he found fire inspectors falsifying and destroying records, and demanding unnecessary overtime. Vidovich said he told his superiors, including Terrazas.

An investigation later sustained one of his allegations but not another, a Fire Department spokeswoman said.

Frank Lima, then the union's president, testified in a deposition that inspectors became upset after Vidovich cracked down on overtime pay and asked them to use iPads in the field, which could allow supervisors to track their whereabouts in real time.

Also, a group of inspectors alleged in a 2016 Times article that the bureau, under Vidovich, had cut corners by using poorly trained firefighters who were coaxed by supervisors to relax safety rules and overlook violations.

After an investigation, the department later found "insufficient evidence to sustain any charges," the spokeswoman said.

With tensions escalating in February 2016, several inspectors met with Jeff Gorell, Garcetti's deputy mayor overseeing public safety.

"They met with me as a union," Gorell wrote in an email to others in the mayor's office. "But they only had one demand/request — that Terrazas fire the fire marshal — Chief Vidovich."

Terrazas briefed the mayor on how he was handling the situation, Gorell's email said.

A month later, the union approved a resolution of "no confidence" in Vidovich.

As part of their campaign against the fire marshal, Lima said in a deposition, union members planned to put billboards up in San Pedro attacking him — along with posts on social media and possibly advertisements in The Times. The union wanted the publicity to "reflect badly" on the Fire Department.

On Aug. 9, 2016, Lima texted Gorell, asking if there had been any "resolution" with Vidovich. If not, Lima wrote that the union was ready to spend \$250,000 on a "gangster campaign" against the fire marshal and warned that there would be negative consequences for Garcetti.

“The mayor will take a hit on this, and we DO NOT WANT THAT AT ALL,” Lima wrote to Gorell. “Let me know where we are to hopefully avoid this and hopefully Terrazas can make the very smart decision to save himself, the mayor, and the city bad press and embarrassment.”

During his deposition, Lima was asked about the text.

“So essentially you were threatening Mr. Gorell with this campaign unless they agreed to remove Chief Vidovich per your demands here?” asked attorney Michael Turrill, who represents Vidovich.

“I wasn’t threatening,” Lima replied. “I was promising.”

### *New job in mayor’s office*

Terrazas said in his deposition that he agonized over whether to move Vidovich, but ultimately did so because he was worried the union’s attacks would hurt Vidovich, his family and the Fire Department.

Amid the turmoil, Vidovich testified that he and Terrazas met at a golf course and drank beers. Terrazas “talked about that he was now getting pressure from the mayor’s office, about moving me out of the fire marshal position,” Vidovich testified.

During another conversation, Terrazas told Vidovich that “the mayor’s office has me over a barrel,” according to Vidovich’s deposition. Vidovich asked who in the mayor’s office and Terrazas replied, “the mayor.”

In his deposition, Terrazas testified that he may have said he was “over a barrel” because of the situation, but denied that he was referring to the mayor.

Meanwhile, Gorell and others had started discussing a job for Vidovich in the mayor’s office, according to their text messages included in the public court file.

On Aug. 11, 2016, Vidovich met with Ana Guerrero, Garcetti’s chief of staff, as well as Gorell, Terrazas and then-Deputy Mayor Raymond Chan, and was told about his new position.

Vidovich was “angry” during the meeting and wanted more specifics about what his duties would be, Guerrero later testified. In response, she said she would put together a job description, according to her testimony.

In his deposition, Vidovich said he was never told what the job would be.

About two weeks later, The Times reported Vidovich’s departure in a front-page article that cited the delinquent inspections and mounting criticism of him from the firefighters’ union. Lima was quoted as saying the union was “very happy” and that the union remained comfortable with its earlier decision to back Garcetti in his 2017

reelection bid for mayor.

Vidovich said in his deposition that he was embarrassed and upset by The Times' story. He sent a text to Terrazas that said the union "crossed the line."

In his lawsuit against the city, Vidovich alleged that he was moved out in exchange for the union's support of Garcetti's reelection bid. Lima, now a vice president with the International Assn. of Firefighters, and the mayor's office denied the allegation.

City attorneys said in court documents seeking to dismiss the case that Terrazas was the decision-maker behind Vidovich's removal, not Garcetti.

They cited "workplace disharmony," including an "attempted work slowdown" and the planned smear campaign as among the reasons to transfer him.

"The city and the fire chief must be able to reassign its personnel in order to manage its operations, and in this case, to avoid a potentially embarrassing public campaign lodged by the union against the plaintiff," city attorneys wrote in court filings seeking to dismiss the case.

Shortly after the fire marshal lost his job, Garcetti left Vidovich a voicemail.

"John, it's Eric Garcetti, just calling to check in and see how you're doing," the mayor said, according to a filing submitted by Vidovich's attorney seeking to compel the mayor to testify in the case. "I know it's been a tough few weeks. I just wanted to call that a) I am a huge fan of yours, and b) there has been no direction from me whatsoever on any of this. ... I want you to know your mayor has your back and is thinking of you."

Vidovich, who was replaced by then-Asst. Chief Kristin Crowley, never went to work in Garcetti's office.

Guerrero had heard that Vidovich had been sending emails, insisting Garcetti had ruined his career, the mayor's chief of staff said in her deposition. That prompted her to tell Chan and Gorell that "we cannot have him in the mayor's office," she said.

Instead, Vidovich went to the Fire Department's South L.A. bureau and retired in May 2017.

## **LA Times**

### **L.A. school board approves teachers' contract despite financial risks**

By: Howard Blume

Los Angeles school officials on Tuesday approved a new teachers' contract despite concerns it places the struggling system at increased financial risk, while separately backing a resolution meant to slow down the booming charter school movement that has drained students from L.A. Unified.

The sweeping actions by the Board of Education deliver on promises the district made to teachers, who staged a six-day strike earlier this month.

The contract both sides agreed on got classrooms open again. But a new analysis by the L.A. County Office of Education raised alarms about whether the district could afford the terms of the deal, with officials saying the district would eventually fall below its required reserves.

The county oversight agency stopped short of urging a rejection of the contract, but it warned L.A. Unified that it would have to submit a revised three-year budget plan.

The school district has been struggling financially due in part to the rise of charter schools, which have expanded greatly in Los Angeles and have reduced enrollment in district-run public schools.

During intense negotiations, L.A. schools Supt. Austin Beutner had agreed to bring forward a resolution calling for a moratorium on new charters in L.A. Unified until a study could be completed on how they affect traditional schools.

A moratorium would require action by state officials and so the resolution was non-binding. But district teachers pushed for it and local charter operators forcefully opposed it, with more than 1,000 charter supporters turning out Tuesday to protest outside district headquarters, just west of downtown.

As the protest took place outside, board members inside voted unanimously to approve a contract with teachers that will run through June of 2021.

As things stand, the school system appears to be unable to meet all of its budget obligations. The contract is “not sustainable on an ongoing basis,” Debra Duardo, superintendent of the Office of Education, said in a statement.

If the district does not take the necessary steps to avoid financial risk, then the county agency would appoint a fiscal advisor with the authority to override district spending decisions.

One problem with the contract that the Office of Education cited is its optimistic assumptions about state revenue projections, based on the budget proposal submitted by Gov. Gavin Newsom. The county agency objected to counting dollars that were not yet guaranteed. The state budget has yet to be approved by the Legislature.

The county also was concerned about a projection that the district’s reserve fund would fall just below legal requirements in three years. The county has expressed such concerns before, and the union, United Teachers Los Angeles, dismissed them as it has before.

L.A. schools Supt. Austin Beutner said he's well aware of the district's financial challenges — indeed, he had repeatedly called attention to them during contract negotiations. Still, he said, the contract was the right step forward and that all parties had compromised to get to an agreement. Resolving the labor conflict would allow all groups to focus on shared challenges, such as cutting costs, and obtaining more revenue from the state and federal government and from ballot initiatives.

"We are at a historic moment to start addressing these issues," Beutner said. "This contract is not an end. It is a beginning."

Board member Nick Melvoin said the district would have to make the contract pencil out: "It's up to us, collectively, to make it sustainable."

Teachers and their union leaders have long been concerned about the rapid growth of charters — even as district enrollment is declining overall because of population trends. Charters are privately operated public schools that compete with L.A. Unified — and with each other — for students. Most charters are non-union.

The district's declining enrollment has created financial pressure on L.A. Unified, which has had trouble cutting costs and faces increasing burdens from underfunded programs to provide retirees with pensions and health benefits. L.A. Unified serves about 486,000 students in the schools it operates. L.A. Unified has 225 charters — more than in any other school system in the country — serving about 112,000 students.

There is no limit on how many charters can open, and some have closed because they, too, cannot attract enough students.

In the view of some, this constant competition is healthy — and likely to lead to better educational options and outcomes. Critics, including the union, insist that more effort and more resources should go toward existing schools, allowing them to remain sources of stability within their communities.

On Tuesday, dozens of charter schools pulled students from class to give them the civics lesson of assembling en masse for a rally and for impassioned speeches before the Board of Education.

The topic that triggered the fiercest response was the resolution, written by board member Richard Vladovic, calling for a state study on how charter schools affect traditional schools, as well as an eight- to 10-month local moratorium while the study is being completed.

Among the protesters was Lexi Hopp, an 18-year-old senior at Granada Hills Charter High School.

"I felt that it was important to be here today because students and families should have the choice of where to go to school," she said. "Not every school is perfect. So

every school, every family, needs to have their choice of where to send their student, to have the best fit possible for them.”

Manuel Vasquez, one of the speakers at the rally, took aim at the deal that was brokered by Beutner, union President Alex Caputo-Pearl and L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who was mediating.

“I dream of a day when three old, privileged, white guys won’t bargain away our public school choice,” said Vasquez, a staff organizer for the California Charter Schools Assn., who graduated from a local charter school.

“We want charter schools!” protesters chanted, along with “parents choice!”

Some protesters said they had come to oppose a ban on charter schools, although existing charters would not be affected under the moratorium. And the district still must approve new local charters unless state officials act to change the law.

Her voice breaking with emotion, parent Roxann Nazario told board members that a moratorium would hurt her fifth-grade daughter and other students because the east San Fernando Valley has too few charter options for middle and high school students. She challenged the board to act against low-performing district schools instead.

There also were parents who testified strongly in favor of the moratorium.

Leaders of the teachers’ union had pushed hard for the resolution during negotiations, even though it was outside the scope of the formal contract. Initially, the resolution had seemed unlikely to get the four votes needed to pass. Three of the six board members were elected with substantial financial backing from charter school supporters.

But board President Monica Garcia, a charter supporter, broke ranks.

“The resolution was part of the package to end the strike,” Garcia said after the meeting. “And I supported ending the strike, and the superintendent, and the negotiating team, and all partners that brought us back.”

She added that a study might have value and that it was important for all parties to come together.

Kelly Gonez, who was elected with substantial support from charter school backers, also voted “yes.” The “no” vote came from Melvoin.

Teachers have already approved the new contract, with 81% voting “yes,” according to preliminary figures. The contract calls for a 3% raise retroactive to July 1, 2017, and an additional 3% raise that’s retroactive to July 1, 2018. Teachers gave up about 3.5% of their pay for this year by being on strike.

The deal also is supposed to provide full-time nurses at every campus, librarians at every secondary school and additional counselors at high schools. Class sizes would drop slightly next year and even more in subsequent years, provided there is enough revenue.

## **NBC Los Angeles**

### **Typhus Epidemic Worsens in Los Angeles**

By: Joel Grover and Amy Corral

A veteran Los Angeles City Hall official is one of the latest victims of an epidemic of the infectious disease typhus that continues to worsen across LA County.

For months, LA County public health officials have said typhus is mainly hitting the homeless population.

But Deputy City Attorney Liz Greenwood, a veteran prosecutor, tells NBC4 she was diagnosed with typhus in November, after experiencing high fevers and excruciating headaches.

"It felt like somebody was driving railroad stakes through my eyes and out the back of my neck," Greenwood told the I-Team. "Who gets typhus? It's a medieval disease that's caused by trash."

Armies of rats running through the streets of downtown Los Angeles are the suspected cause of a Typhus outbreak hitting the city. NBC4 I-Team's Joel Grover reports for NBC4 News at 11 p.m. on Oct. 9, 2018. (Published Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2018)

#### *The symptoms of typhus*

Greenwood believes she contracted typhus from fleas in her office at City Hall East. Fleas often live on rats, which congregate in the many heaps of trash that are visible across the city of LA, and are a breeding ground for typhus.

"There are rats in City Hall and City Hall East," Greenwood added. "There are enormous rats and their tails are as long as their bodies."

Last year set a new record for the number of typhus cases — 124 in LA County for the year, according to the California Department of Public Health.

Last October, Mayor **Garcetti** vowed to clean up piles of garbage throughout the city to combat the typhus epidemic.

The Mayor allocated millions of dollars to increase clean-ups of streets in the Skid Row area, known lately as "the typhus zone."

But four months later, the I-Team documented huge piles of garbage just outside the



"typhus zone."

"You can't solve it (the typhus epidemic) until the you hit the cause," says Estela Lopez of the Downtown Industrial Business Improvement District, "and the cause of it is that you still have these mountains of trash."

Added Greenwood: "This is a terrible illness and I wouldn't wish this on anybody. But it's not just homeless folks getting it."

She believes the city should fumigate City Hall and City Hall East to protect the thousands of workers and visitors who could be at risk from getting typhus.

Responding to complaints from other city workers fearful of getting typhus, LA has already fumigated LAPD's Central Division office and parts of the LAPD's main headquarters.

Garcetti's office did not respond to NBC4's questions about why the city hasn't fully fumigated City Hall buildings as well.

Greenwood says she doesn't want to return to work at City Hall East until the entire building is fumigated for typhus-carrying fleas.

"I am concerned about going back to work and getting this again, because I thought I was going to die," Greenwood said.

*Statement from Mayor Garcetti's Office:*

Los Angeles' Response to Typhus Epidemic 'Too Slow'

"Last fall we directed multiple City departments to begin a coordinated and comprehensive effort to improve cleanliness and protect public health in the Civic Center, including City Hall and City Hall East. In addition to increased trash collection and cleanings, aggressive action has been taken to address pests both in the buildings and in the surrounding outside areas — including abatement treatments and the filling of 60 rodent burrows and 114 tree wells. This work in busy and highly populated public buildings is executed carefully to protect workers and visitors, and the scheduling of extermination activities takes these factors into consideration." -- Vicki Curry, spokeswoman, city of Los Angeles

*Also covered by: [Breitbart](#), [Telemundo](#)*

**LA Times**

**Stan Lee saluted at star-studded tribute featuring Mark Hamill and Kevin Smith**

By: Ashley Lee

Kevin Smith woke up overwhelmed on Wednesday morning. The filmmaker was somewhat nervous about hosting the evening's tribute to the late Marvel Comics

legend Stan Lee.

"I'm honored to send the old man off in this way, and all I have to do is not cry as profusely as I know I'm going to," he told The Times shortly before the ceremony at the TCL Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles.

"He was into the glitz and glamour, so he would've loved this," continued Smith. "It wasn't about fame for the guy, but mainstream acceptance for what he did, because for years, decades, he didn't think what he was making was good enough. This is what he's waited for his whole life, and mercifully, he got it."

Smith did have to hold back his tears when he recalled how he first met Lee by pitching his idol a role in the 1995 film "Mallrats," and how he still couldn't believe that they became true friends for the 25 years to follow.

"There was never a moment when I was disappointed by the humanity of Stan Lee," Smith told fans while standing near Lee's signature in concrete at the Hollywood landmark. "By inventing Spider-Man, the Avengers, so on and so forth, he helped us all build our morality, he helped us tell right from wrong while entertaining us."

Throughout the three-hour tribute — which included reels of Lee's crowd-pleasing cameos in each of the Marvel Cinematic Universe movies — Clark Gregg, Felicia Day, Rosario Dawson, Bruce Davidson, RZA and more shared their favorite memories of Lee, complete with their best impressions of his distinct voice.

"He clearly loved what he was doing," said "Star Wars" actor Mark Hamill, "and he had such a personality that came across the pages."

Laurence Fishburne — who also performed a reading of Lee's favorite poem, Edgar Allan Poe's "The Raven" — confessed that, as a child, he resorted to stealing Marvel comics when the company raised the prices from 12 cents to 15 cents.

"I had become an actor by the time they were 25 cents!" the "Ant-Man and the Wasp" actor said, laughing. "I was able to thank him for what he did for my life. It just opened my mind to the possibility that you could be more than what your surroundings said you were supposed to be."

Dwayne Johnson, William Shatner, George Takei, Mike Colter, David Tennant, Doug Jones and Ming-Na Wen also shared their thoughts via video messages. Said Wen, "Thank you for helping all of us to find the hero within ourselves."

Additionally, the evening included remarks from a slew of collaborators such as "Blade" creator Marc Wolfman, "Fantastic Four" creator George Perez, former Marvel executive Avi Arad, "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" producers Phil Lord and Chris Miller, and Nikki Frakes, who co-directed a 2011 documentary on Lee.

While many of the recollections were heartfelt and complimentary, not all of them

were strictly flattering. Gill Champion, the co-founder of Lee's production company, POW! Entertainment, revealed that "even though he loved driving, he was the worst driver in the world."

And "Spider-Man: Homecoming" producer Amy Pascal recalled his grouchier side throughout her days at Sony. "I think there were some of these movies he didn't like so much," she said with a laugh. "He was pretty honest!"

The event also included Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti's** posthumous presentation of a key to the city, as well as a wreath-laying ceremony by the Veterans in Media & Entertainment and American Legion Hollywood Post 43, both of which counted Lee, a veteran, as a member.

All proceeds from the tribute — for which tickets ran upward of \$150 a pop — benefited the Hero Initiative, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to helping comic-book creators, writers and artists in need.

Nearly three months since Lee died at age 95, the event was nearly sold out, packed with fans dressed in character tees and elaborate cosplay outfits.

Smith said he hopes that Hollywood's gratitude toward Lee continues — particularly at the upcoming Oscars. "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" nabbed an animated film nomination, "Avengers: Infinity War" is up for visual effects, and "Black Panther" is the first superhero movie ever included in the coveted best picture category.

Said Smith to Lord, Miller and Pascal, "I can't think of a better send-off than you guys going up there and picking up some tin."

## **USA Today / AP**

### **Stan Lee memorial: The Rock, Kevin Smith, Mark Hamill remember comic-book icon**

LOS ANGELES — An Army bugler played a mournful "Taps" at a Hollywood memorial for Stan Lee, and military bagpipers sent a solemn "Amazing Grace" into the air.

Standing respectfully around them was another group in its own impeccable uniforms: Lee fans dressed as Black Panther, Wolverine and other members of the X-Men and Avengers.

It might have been a ridiculous scene at the TCL Chinese Theatre Wednesday night had it not been a perfect encapsulation of the life of Lee, a World War II veteran who wanted to become a serious writer and instead grudgingly took a job in comic books, becoming the mastermind behind Marvel Comics and co-creator of many of the best known and most lucrative characters of the last century. Lee died Nov. 12 at age 95.

"This was a guy who spent his life dreaming of writing the great American novel, and he didn't realize he was doing it, over and over and over again," said the night's host,

filmmaker Kevin Smith, a friend and super-fan of Lee. “The world didn’t need another ‘In Cold Blood.’ It needed Spider-Man.”

On a night that had more cheers than tears, hundreds of Marvel fans stood and paid tribute along with Lee’s colleagues, co-creators and friends outside the Hollywood Boulevard theater where he had put his hand and footprints in cement in a similar ceremony 18 months earlier. Lee died in December at age 95.

“Sometimes when I’m feeling sad or I’m upset I would think of Stan Lee and this wonderful universe he’s created,” said Lee fan Isaac Suarez, who was celebrating his 14th birthday. “His soul lives on in every one of us, in every single comic and movie he’s put his life into.”

Tom DeSanto, who as producer of “X-Men” was among the first to find big-screen success with Lee’s characters, said he was astonished by Lee’s global reach.

“I’ve seen kids dressed up as “Spider-Man in Beijing, Boston and Barcelona,” DeSanto said.

Across the street was a billboard announcing that a movie whose characters started with Lee, “Black Panther,” had been nominated for six Academy Awards.

“That’s a triumph,” Smith said. “It’s a cherry on the top of an amazing, productive life.”

Smith called Lee “one of the best humans to ever walk the earth,” setting the tone for a night when no one would hold back in their superhero-worship. Speakers and panelists would compare Lee to the pope, Jesus, and the shining light of the sun.

Mark Hammill, a friend of Lee who often worked alongside him doing voices on Marvel animation projects, was among the few to admit Lee had flaws.

“He wasn’t always nice,” Hammill said in a panel discussion. “He’d give you shots. He could be acerbic.”

Chris Miller and Phil Lord, producers of “Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse,” which is also nominated for an Oscar, talked about meeting Lee when he was very old yet still bursting with energy and ideas.

“There were thousands of them,” Lord said. “He was a compulsive creator.”

Actor Laurence Fishburne, who appeared in Marvel’s “Ant-Man and the Wasp” last year, described the thrill of spending 12 cents to buy a Lee comic book when he was a child in Brooklyn, New York.

“It opened my eyes to the possibility that you could be more than your surroundings say you can be,” Fishburne said.

The night also featured frequent digs at comedian Bill Maher, who on his talk show last week took shots at Lee worshippers who still read comic books as adults. A big-screen graphic at one point thanked him for bringing comics fans together.

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** gave Lee a posthumous key to the city, with Lee's catchphrase "Excelsior!" engraved on it.

The night included much praise for the artists Lee worked with who often go uncredited, including Steve Ditko and Jack Kirby, and just as much praise for Lee's wife and partner in everything Joan, who died in 2017.

Lee's only child and heir, daughter J.C. Lee, made a rare public appearance, walking quickly along the red carpet and shouting thanks to fans and reporters.

The night lacked the star power of any of the actors who play members of the Avengers, but made up for it in the number of prominent executives, actors and artists Lee had worked with.

On the screen inside the theater where Lee's Marvel movie cameos played between speakers, video tributes came from Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, William Shatner, and "Luke Cage" actor Mike Colter.

Nearly everyone who spoke did their best impression of Lee's gravelly voice and northeastern accent. Hammill may have been the best at it when he repeated what Lee said when asked how he stayed so youthful in old age.

"Well Mark," Hammill-as-Lee said, "I like to get up in the morning and worry very, very hard all day long."

### **Hollywood Reporter**

#### **Stan Lee's Friends and Fans Pay Tearful, Funny Tribute to Their "Generalissimo"**

By: Dan Gvozden

*The four-hour event stretched on to midnight as Kevin Smith, Mark Hamill and mayor Eric Garcetti shared their favorite stories about the late comic book creator.*

On Nov. 12, the world lost comics writer extraordinaire, cameo king, and the face of Marvel Comics: Stan Lee. Yet now, even two months later, he still seems very much alive in the heart of Hollywood. That's because, amongst other things, a group of Stan's greatest friends, collaborators, and fans all gathered for a night in a mega memorial in his honor called "Excelsior! A Celebration of the Amazing, Fantastic, Incredible & Uncanny Life of Stan Lee."

On a typical night on Hollywood Boulevard a gathering of superheroes wouldn't be unusual, but Wednesday's celebration for their "Generalissimo", as Stan was sometimes known, would challenge that notion. Dozens of spandex-clad heroes,

ranging as widely as Spider-Man to Cable, comingled with celebrities like the RZA and Mark Hamill, all with one thing in common: Stan Lee's impact on their lives.

The entire crowd, cameras, stars, and cosplayers gathered outside the TCL Chinese Theatre next to Lee's handprints and were silenced by the sound of "Taps" played above the scene by a military bugler. Lee, a World War II veteran himself, was honored by a full color guard and dedication to his service to the country, where he was first assigned to write advertisements, skits, and other informative recruitment/safety pieces. Lee's daughter J.C. Lee led a group of military men and veterans to a round of "God Bless America."

Hosting the show was Lee's long-time friend and fan, filmmaker Kevin Smith, who was sure to note that Lee was "one of the best humans to ever walk the Earth" before inviting everyone to enter the theater. The theater itself was transformed into a monument to the man, with some of his most beloved comics on display, from the first appearance of Spider-Man and Black Panther to some of the most iconic adventures of the Fantastic Four. Costumes from the Sony-led Spider-Man films were displayed inside glass cases, but it was the energy in the room that truly punctuated the evening.

Smith put it best at the beginning of the tribute: "This is not a funeral, though he's gone. This is a celebration! That's how religions start. We all agree that we saw him tonight and that he's no longer gone. Stan's spirit is here with us." With all the outpourings of love in the room, it'd be hard to argue otherwise. Copious footage of Lee played throughout the evening, including a touching clip of him singing "Cocktails for Two", with all the energy of someone in their twenties, as his embarrassed assistants set up his microphone.

Smith kicked off the evening with the story of how he met Stan for his movie Mallrats and the grand efforts it took to convince the then less-recognizable legend to appear in his film after Lee read the script and remarked "I would never say this." Smith admitted that Lee himself was never quite accepting or aware of his successes, despite his put on braggadocio. "This was a guy who spent his life dreaming of writing the great American novel, and he didn't realize that he had been successful and fulfilled his dreams one-thousand times over," Smith said. Smith himself admitted that "it was hard to understand that we were friends" before eventually coming to realize just how much Lee loved him.

This would set the tone for the night, as attendees laughed together over assembled clips of Lee's cameos in various films, genuflected over powerful quotes from his comics, and enjoyed impressive panels of guests who shared their personal stories of Lee. First up, fresh off the successes of Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse, was a panel that included producers Amy Pascal, Avi Arad, Chris Miller and Phil Lord. Arad, Lee's longtime collaborator in bringing Marvel to Hollywood, spoke about how Stan persevered through Marvel's ups and downs, certain that Marvel was the single best universe for Hollywood storytelling.

Pascal reflected on how it was the soap opera of Spider-Man that made these stories so special, before offering one of the few pokes at Lee, "He wasn't that nice. Sometimes he was grouchy. He was pretty honest, and I was grateful for that." Smith cringed and Lord bounced the conversation back on track, expressing, "Stan was a compulsive creative. He couldn't turn it off. He made ordinary people feel extraordinary!"

The next panel brought out the big stars who had shared the screen with Lee throughout the years, including Mark Hamill, Laurence Fishburne, Clark Gregg, and Felicia Day. Hamill offered the best impression of Lee's unique voice, as he channeled the comic creator's response to how he remained so youthful into his nineties: "Well Mark, I like to get up early in the morning and work very, very hard all day long." Hamill implored the audience to accept that everyone has had a personal relationship with Lee and that, "If you saw him, you also know him. He was who he was."

Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. actor Gregg noted of Lee's work, "I feel carried by his work. I feel inspired by it." Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer actor Doug Jones, who portrayed the Surfer (Lee's favorite character to write for), appeared by video clip to quote Silver Surfer No. 3 in a tear-jerking moment, "If die I must – let it be as I have lived – soaring swift and silent – striving for the right – no matter what the cost!"

Perhaps the biggest moment of the night came with the appearance of Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who detailed Lee's love affair with L.A. before running through a detailed catalogue of his own nerdiness, including a proclamation that no one could offer him enough money to let go of his complete collection of original copies of the Wolverine comic series. Garcetti made it clear, "Stan Lee was a mensch who always fought for the underdog", before presenting Stan's former company Stan Lee's POW! Entertainment with Garcetti's third ever "Key to the City", carved from a fallen tree and engraved with Stan's image and catchphrase "Excelsior!"

Lee, known for his unorthodox methods of community building and progressive values, found an ally in RZA, who expressed that the Wu-Tang Clan was partially inspired by the comic creator's work, allowing themselves to take on their own superhero names. The room was silent while he recited a famous 1968 passage from Stan's Soapbox, a passage Stan would sometimes insert between the pages of his comics, decrying bigotry in all its forms: "Let's lay it right on the line. Bigotry and racism are among the deadliest social ills plaguing the world today." Laurence Fishburne returned to punctuate this silence with a stirring live rendition of Edgar Allen Poe's "The Raven", a favorite of Stan Lee's; for a moment the whole world seemed to stop for the haunting poem.

The night was rounded out with several panels of Lee's comics collaborators, including Joe Quesada, Marv Wolfman, George Perez, Bill Sienkiewicz, Jeph Loeb, and Steve Wacker. Each recounted their personal experiences with Lee and how he either inspired them or took personal time out of his day to make them feel special and invited to the comics community. Quesada, former editor-in-chief of Marvel

Comics, emphasized how much he strived to live up to Lee's ideals when running the company himself, suggesting that when Marvel adheres to Stan's fan-oriented principals then the company is doing its best.

But, it was Wacker, who sat in Stan's former seat as the editor of the Amazing Spider-Man comic, who addressed the elephant in the room head on: Bill Maher's recent derogatory comments about Lee's legacy and the value of comic art. After a night where Lee was consistently compared to Shakespeare, Wacker said that perhaps everyone understood that there were more "important" things in the world and in art than comics and pop culture, but that this kind of escapism and joy "is what we are fighting these fights for," before ending the night on a resounding "Excelsior."

On and on the night stretched, with panel after panel sharing their stories of Lee, as if the night never ended we would never have to truly let the creator go. Approaching midnight, Kevin Smith assured the crowds, "Don't worry we only have a week's worth of panels to go," before launching into his final story of the night.

Smith shared a story about a time he invited the elderly Stan to his home, spending a spirited afternoon together. Yet, just before seeing him off, Stan tripped precariously at the top of Smith's stairs, a situation that could have seen him gravely injured. Smith's mind went to thoughts of the headlines the next day, remarking, "I broke Stan during my time with him!"

But at the last minute, it was his road manager Max Anderson who swooped in for the save, catching Stan in his arms and immediately bouncing him back to safety. Smith called Max up on stage, to a round of applause, where a teary-eyed Max told the crowd, "Stan isn't looking down on us, he's here with us. Inside all of you."

Moments later the crowd was singing the Spider-Man theme song, shouting "Excelsior" and heading home, given one final task by Max Anderson: "Share your stories, that's how Stan lives on."

## **Variety**

### **Stan Lee Remembered at Hollywood Tribute: His 'Greatest Creation Was Himself'**

By: Jordan Moreau

Stan Lee may not have had the power of immortality, but his legacy and impact on pop culture will surely live on forever.

Longtime friend and filmmaker Kevin Smith hosted "Excelsior! A Celebration of the Amazing, Fantastic, Incredible & Uncanny Life of Stan Lee" at the TCL Chinese Theatre in Hollywood on Wednesday night. Lee, who died on Nov. 12 at age 95, helped create some of the most iconic superheroes in history for Marvel Comics, including Spider-Man, Iron Man, Thor, Hulk, Black Panther, Dr. Strange, and the X-Men.



"I remember Stan meeting ['Spider-Man' star] Tom Holland for the first time," Sean Gunn, one of the stars of "Guardians of the Galaxy" told Variety. "The thing you have to know about Stan is that he was always f—ing with people all the time. He never stopped doing it. He said, 'Tom, everyone tells me that you're the perfect Spider-Man, but I can't see it.' Tom's face fell and Stan laughed. He looked around and winked at the people who knew he was messing around."

Smith first met Lee while filming "Mallrats" in 1995 after writing a small role specifically for the comic legend. A short meeting about how inaccurate the character was to Lee's actual persona soon led to a 23-year friendship.

"He never gave me any advice, which was so awesome because that's what a friend is. He doesn't tell you how to live your life. He just enjoys the life that you live," Smith told Variety. "He never gave me advice, but he gave me so much more than that. That man lived the life, where I was like, 'I'm gonna borrow that, gonna borrow that, gonna borrow that.' He was never like, 'Kev, be like me.' I just chose to be like him."

The celebration began with a police flag-raising ceremony outside the TCL Chinese Theatre and a salute by Veterans in Media & Entertainment to Lee, who served in World War II. The veterans group presented a memorial flag to his daughter, J.C. Lee.

Inside, Smith hosted several star-studded panels to remember the impact Lee had on so many people's lives and careers. Without Lee's early comics, "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" producers Phil Lord and Chris Miller wouldn't have had the inspiration for their Oscar-nominated film.

"Our first encounter with him was at eight years old reading comic books. We first met him when we were 20 years old and snuck into a Comic-Con after-party and ran up to him. Any other person would've totally been calling security over," Miller said. "Reading his notes to the readers in those pages was the first time we felt part of something bigger. He made ordinary people feel extraordinary. To me, that's his legacy."

In the final pages of many of his comics, Lee penned "Stan's Soapbox," letters he wrote that spoke to the reader in a humorous, honest way. Few other creators developed such a direct relationship with their legions of adoring fans.

"He had such a personality that came across the pages," "Star Wars" star Mark Hamill said during a panel. "He put a human face on what it was like to work for a comic company. He had catchphrases, like 'Excelsior,' and 'Stan's Soapbox.' You really felt like you knew him. He branded that company. He was the figurehead. He was the guy, Stan the Man."

"Stan's Soapbox" also united fans of all backgrounds and championed respect, equality, and diversity. One of the most famous letters from 1969 that condemned bigotry went viral following his death. Wu-Tang Clan member and filmmaker RZA

repeated Lee's words to a hushed audience.

"Bigotry and racism are among the deadliest social ills plaguing the world today. But unlike a team of costumed supervillains, they can't be halted with a punch in the snoot, or a zap from a ray gun. The only way to destroy them is to expose them — to reveal them for the insidious evils they really are," he read. "Sooner or later, if man is ever to be worthy of his destiny, we must fill out hearts with tolerance."

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** honored him with a posthumous key to the city. The one-of-kind key was made from solid brass and wood from a fallen tree in the San Fernando Valley, where Lee spent a lot of time.

"Whether you're lucky enough to be born here or smart enough like Stan Lee to come here, this is indeed a City of Angels. This is a place where we have heart, we have spirit — things Stan Lee was all about," Garcetti said during the ceremony. "Whether you're a woman, or a person of color, or LGBTQ, or a religious minor, or a senior, we start thinking of everyone as an underdog. Stan Lee did things to give us a place where we felt ourselves."

The panels were punctuated with montages of Lee's cameos in dozens of superhero pics, personal videos of him signing autographs while singing, and tributes from other celebrities. Seth Green remembered meeting his wife during an encounter with Lee, and Laurence Fishburne recited "The Raven," Lee's favorite poem. Other panelists included Felicia Day, Tom DeSanto, Avi Arad, Amy Pascal, and Joe Quesada. Video tributes from Dwayne Johnson, David Tennant, Ming-Na Wen, Mike Colter, and Doug Jones also played.

"Stan's greatest creation was himself. We love all the superheroes that Stan was responsible for, but we don't get to meet those superheroes unless we met the character of Stan Lee," Smith said. "If Stan wants to live forever, this is how it begins. Sometimes I lament because I honestly think I've met the best f—ing human being in my life, and now he's gone. He meant the world to everyone in this room. We're talking about someone who didn't have to touch personally to touch personally. This is a guy who lives in everybody's hearts."

Legion M, a fan-owned entertainment company, the consultancy Agents of Mayhem, and Lee's POW! Entertainment production group helped produce the tribute. Proceeds from ticket sales benefitted the Hero Initiative, a charity that assists comic creators with health expenses.

## **CNET**

### **Stan Lee gets star-studded tribute: He 'made us proud to be misfits'**

By: Bonnie Burton

Late great Marvel legend Stan Lee got the illustrious sendup he deserved Wednesday night in Hollywood, where stars of film, TV, music and comics came together with cosplaying fans to celebrate Lee's extraordinary life.

To kick off the evening, cheering fans gathered outside the iconic TCL Chinese Theatre to hear filmmaker Kevin Smith and many others share their most cherished memories of Lee with hundreds of fans.

"Stan wrote simple stories about extraordinary people running toward danger," said Smith, a longtime friend of Lee's who hosted the event.

"Stan always wanted to write the greatest American novel, but without realizing it he did over and over again," Smith said. "We didn't need another *In Cold Blood*. What we needed was Spider-Man, Hulk and the Avengers."

Lee died in November at 95. But as fans dressed as X-Men, the Avengers, Doctor Strange, Black Panther and other Lee creations posed with excited celebrities and Marvel execs, the feeling in the air was less of sadness than happiness and camaraderie.

The event at the TCL Chinese Theatre was aptly titled "Excelsior! A Celebration of the Amazing, Fantastic, Incredible & Uncanny Life of Stan Lee," and as actors, producers and writers came on stage to share their favorite memories of working with Lee, their tributes painted a picture of an amazing, fantastic life indeed.

As expected there wasn't a dry eye in the house.

"Stan loved his fans as much as we loved him," Star Wars star Mark Hamill said.

Hamill and Lee recently joined forces on Marvel's *Avengers: Black Panther's Quest* animated series last year, where Hamill voiced the Hydra scientist Arnim Zola.

Marvel's Ant-Man and the Wasp actor Laurence Fishburne chimed in with heartwarming stories about growing up reading his favorite comics full of Lee's creations. He revealed that Lee helped him understand through his superhero stories that "you can be more than just what your surroundings say you're supposed to be."

But it wasn't just Lee's superheroes and villains who taught fans to strive to be better people, Lee also served as an example of how to treat fans.

"Stan really connected on a deeper level with everyone he met and spoke with," actor Felicia Day said on stage. "Stan was great at showing me how we should all treat the people who love what we do."

The evening also included discussions with stars from the comics world, including Tom DeSanto (X-Men producer), Michael Uslan (Batman producer) and Marv Wolfman (Blade creator).

"X-Men were a group of superheroes who protected the very people who hated them, and that taught me what humanity can be," DeSanto said. "Stan made you always

feel like you were capable of anything."

Throughout the evening fans laughed, cried and cheered as they were entertained with special presentations from celebrity fans.

The American Legion honored Lee for his service in WWII with military musicians playing Amazing Grace on the bagpipes. Fishburne recited Lee's favorite poem, Edgar Allan Poe's The Raven. Musician RZA read a quote from Lee about the importance of standing up to tyranny.

Actor Seth Green told a moving story about how he met his wife Clare when they bonded over their mutual love for Lee's comics. "Stan made us all proud to be misfits and made us feel less alone," Green said.

There were also multiple video tributes from William Shatner, The Rock, George Takei, Doug Jones and others shown on the big screen. A video montage of Lee's cameos in every Marvel film from Iron Man to Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse was also shown.

Many of the celebs talking about Lee's legacy also took a few well-placed jabs at comedian Bill Maher, who mocked Lee's fans on his talk show last week for still reading comic books as adults.

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** gave an emotional speech about his love of comics -- including his rare Wolverine comics collection -- when he presented a key to the city to Lee posthumously.

"Stan would have had a great career in politics," Garcetti added. "Politics is all about making connections with people, and really listening to them. And Stan did that."

Fans in attendance also had the chance to see a special art exhibit celebrating Lee's work that included Marvel movie costumes and props of his comic book character creations.

All net proceeds from the event's ticket sales raised money for the nonprofit charity The Hero Initiative, which supports comic book creators, artists and writers in need.

## **UPROXX**

### **Kevin Smith Offered An Emotional Tribute To Marvel Comics Legend Stan Lee**

By: Josh Kurp

It doesn't take much to get Kevin Smith crying, but he was especially emotional on Wednesday evening while paying tribute to Stan Lee. The Clerks director hosted "Excelsior! A Celebration of the Amazing, Fantastic, Incredible, & Uncanny Life of Stan Lee" at Los Angeles' TCL Chinese Theatre in honor of the Marvel Comics legend, who passed away last November at 95 years old.

"This was a guy who spent his life dreaming of writing the great American novel, and he didn't realize he was doing it, over and over and over again," said Smith, who met Lee on the set of *Mallrats*. "The world didn't need another *In Cold Blood*. It needed Spider-Man." He added the event was "not a funeral, though he's gone. This is a celebration! That's how religions start. We all agree that we saw him tonight and that he's no longer gone. Stan's spirit is here with us."

"He never gave me any advice, which was so awesome because that's what a friend is. He doesn't tell you how to live your life. He just enjoys the life that you live. He never gave me advice, but he gave me so much more than that. That man lived the life, where I was like, 'I'm gonna borrow that, gonna borrow that, gonna borrow that.' He was never like, 'Kev, be like me.' I just chose to be like him."

Also in attendance was Clark Gregg, Felicia Day, Rosario Dawson, Los Angeles mayor **Eric Garcetti**, RZA, Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse producers Chris Miller and Phil Lord, Mark Hamill, and Laurence Fishburne, who said that buying a Marvel comic book when he was a child "opened my eyes to the possibility that you could be more than your surroundings say you can be."

## **Curbed LA**

### **Temporary homeless shelter planned for Fashion District warehouse**

By: Elijah Chiland

Los Angeles city and county officials are moving forward with plans to open a second temporary homeless shelter in Downtown LA as part of Mayor Eric Garcetti's **A Bridge Home** program.

City Councilmember Jose Huizar introduced a motion on Wednesday calling for the city to lease part of a privately owned warehouse in the southern Fashion District in order to convert the site into a shelter with 115 beds.

According to a statement from Huizar, if the City Council approves the lease agreement, the shelter could open within the next three months.

Garcetti launched the shelter program last year, proposing to build at least one short-term housing center in each of the city's 15 council districts. So far, only one of those shelters has opened—a 45-bed facility near the El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic Monument—but a privately funded shelter is up and running in Hollywood, and another shelter in that neighborhood is scheduled to open in the coming month.

Most of the shelters proposed under the program so far would be located on publicly owned land, but in this case, the owner of the warehouse property offered up a portion of the property for housing, allowing the city to save on construction costs.

The city would pay the property owner roughly \$37,000 per month for a three-year lease, while the county would cover the cost of on-site services like case management and counseling for residents.

Garcetti initially suggested that each of the shelters would cost about \$1.3 million each, but so far that price estimate has been short. The El Pueblo shelter cost more than \$2 million, and a 100-bed shelter planned at the Westside Veterans Affairs campus has a price tag of \$5 million.

Last year, the City Council agreed to spend up to \$30 million on the shelters, with an additional \$45 million available through state funds to combat homelessness.

On Wednesday, the council voted to study more than a dozen sites that could also be used for bridge housing or other facilities aimed at serving the more than 20,000 residents living without shelter in the city of Los Angeles.

### **City News Service**

### **City Council to Consider Downtown Emergency Homeless Shelter With 115 Beds**

City Councilman Jose Huizar introduced a motion Thursday calling for the finalization of a property lease that would clear the way for about 115 emergency homeless shelter beds to be opened in the downtown Los Angeles area.

Huizar said the shelter site at 1426 Paloma St. could be opened within three months and become the third facility to be operational under Mayor **Eric Garcetti's** A Bridge Home program, which aims to open a temporary shelter in every City Council district while the city works to build more permanent supportive housing through Measure HHH, a \$1.2 billion bond measure approved by city voters in 2016.

"We have an obligation to help those living on our streets and while supportive housing through Measure HHH is our long-term goal, we need to offer hope now to people and emergency housing with supportive services is definitely a step in the right direction," Huizar said.

The "Bridge Home" program was announced by Garcetti during his State of the City speech last April as a new front in the fight against homelessness, which has grown by about 75 percent over the last six years. The 2018 Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority found that more than 31,000 people are homeless in the city, including more than 23,000 living without shelter, which were both slight drops from the previous year after years of increases.

At least \$20 million in direct budget funding for the program is allocated in the current fiscal year budget, with an additional \$10 million in unallocated funds that could be used for shelters, and \$85 million from the state as a one-time emergency grant for homeless programs, some of which could be used for the Bridge Home program.

Garcetti said at least \$20 million in the state funding could be directed toward shelters in the Skid Row area, where an estimated 2,000 people sleep on the street each night.

The Paloma Street shelter would be located south of Skid Row. The 2018 Homeless Count identified about 700 homeless people living without shelter in the industrial area from Seventh to 21st streets between Maple Avenue and Alameda Street, Huizar's office said.

Under the Bridge Home program, the county will pay for support services at the emergency sites.

"With the Paloma site, about 115 women and men who currently sleep on the streets of downtown L.A. will be put on a path to stable and supportive housing," said Dhakshike Wickrema, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas' deputy for homeless policy. "This is Measure H at work, giving our residents a chance to attain lives of dignity and worth."

The Paloma Street motion comes a day after the City Council voted to examine the feasibility of establishing shelter and/or crisis response services on sites at 442 S. San Pedro St., 2426 E. Washington Blvd., 606 East 6th St. and 540 Towne Ave. All four sites are in downtown or Skid Row.

The Paloma Street site was identified when the property owner, Michael Kaboud, approached the county about using part of his facility for homeless housing, Huizar's office said. The site is currently a clothing warehouse, and the property owner will continue to operate an adjacent portion of the building for his business.

"I am happy to partner with the city and county on this new Bridge Home and to be doing my part in the fight to house our homeless," Kaboud said.

Huizar was an early proponent of using emergency shelters, and the first shelter under the Bridge Home program opened near City Hall close to the El Pueblo Historical Monument, which is also in Huizar's district.

Although he has been attempting to push forward with his various agendas, Huizar's political influence at City Hall has taken a serious hit in recent months, as City Council President Herb Wesson stripped him of all of his committee assignments in November, not long after Huizar's home and offices were searched by the FBI.

Huizar was also named in a search warrant related to the FBI's probe of possible bribery, extortion, money laundering and other crimes as part of a corruption investigation at City Hall focusing on real estate investments. The councilman has refused to directly address the FBI investigation in public, and no one has been arrested in connection with the FBI probe.

## **Reuters**

### **NFL: Super Bowl win would seal Rams return to Los Angeles**

By: Rory Carroll and Amy Tennery

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - A Los Angeles Rams victory in the Super Bowl on Sunday would go a long way to healing the damage caused by the team's 1995 move to St. Louis, which it called home for two decades.

The Rams returned to Southern California in 2016 and have been trying to win back fans who felt deserted when they left, as well as introduce themselves to younger fans who have never associated the franchise with the city.

"I'm Rams until the day I die," LA Mayor and Los Angeles native **Eric Garcetti** told Reuters this week.

"But when a league abandons you for that many years, there's definitely going to be some damage.

"We didn't have football for 20 years so there's a whole generation that has grown up without it," said Garcetti, who attended the 1979 Super Bowl where the LA Rams fell to the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Current Rams quarterback Jared Goff, who was selected first overall in the 2016 draft, said his team had work to do before they had a backing similar to that of the New England Patriots.

"We're new to LA and we're still building that fan base. The Pats fans have been doing it for a long time," he said this week.

"Hopefully we can win this game and keep building."

The enthusiasm gap between the Rams and Patriots is perhaps nowhere more apparent than on social media, where firing off a few Tweets on gameday is as common as hosting a tailgate party, and franchises battle behind the scenes to generate followers, likes and retweets.

While the Patriots enjoy a robust 4.3 million Twitter followers the Rams are still establishing their foothold with roughly 823,000.

During the 2018 season the Rams were the 15th-most mentioned franchise in the NFL, according to data supplied by the social media company.

That trailed far behind other major-market franchises like the Steelers, Cowboys and Patriots – the first-, second- and fifth-most mentioned NFL franchises, respectively.

The Rams are also trying to differentiate themselves in a crowded sports marketplace that is home to 11 professional teams including another NFL team, the Chargers.

The Rams gave a symbolic nod to the future of Los Angeles football last Sunday, hosting their team send-off rally at their under-construction stadium site in Inglewood.



Videos and images posted to social media showed thousands of fans gathering at the rally, some waiting in seemingly endless lines for a chance to see their team.

Sunday's showdown in Atlanta, however, is more likely to resemble a game in Foxborough than one at LA Memorial Coliseum.

Only 12 percent of the tickets sold have come from buyers in California, according to ticket seller StubHub.

The stadium will probably have the look of Foxborough too.

Patriots quarterback Tom Brady's jersey has sold 427 percent more than Goff's, according to eBay.

Everybody loves a winner, however, and if the underdog Rams manage to bring the Lombardi Trophy back to Los Angeles next week there will be no shortage of fans at their parade or in the stands of their new stadium next year.

## **Smart Cities Dive**

### **Los Angeles urges more construction of homeless-supportive housing**

By: Katie Pyzyk

#### **Dive Brief:**

- The Los Angeles City Council unanimously adopted a measure to improve the process and funding structure for developing permanent supportive housing for the homeless through the \$1.2 billion Proposition HHH supportive housing bond.
- The city will allocate \$120 million to create a pilot program for building 1,000 units of supportive housing. The mayor has been authorized to issue a request for information (RFI) for developers to submit strategies for building the housing more reasonably and quickly without compromising quality.
- Construction on the supportive housing units must be completed within two years of funding approval and must show long-term financial and physical stability.

#### **Dive Insight:**

One of the recommended actions in the council documents for the adopted regulation is to "stress the city's state of urgency as it relates to addressing the homeless problem." Documents also discussed a recommendation to declare a state of emergency to more quickly make resources available, but that was ultimately deemed unnecessary at this time.

The underlying theme throughout the documents is that Los Angeles' homelessness problem has grown significantly and rapidly. In fact, the city did declare a state of emergency on homelessness in 2015 and requested additional funding. Last April,

Mayor **Eric Garcetti** declared a shelter crisis and signed ordinances to address the problem, including Proposition HHH.

Proposition HHH passed in 2016 to make available \$1.2 billion for homeless assistive services. But as indicated by the Los Angeles Times, the process for developers to access the funds for their projects has been painfully cumbersome and slow due to federal, state and local bureaucratic processes and regulations. That has led to supportive housing construction occurring at a much lower rate and slower pace than city leaders believe is necessary to prevent the situation from worsening. The city council passed the new measure to remove some of the obstacles and get developments up faster.

The recommendations include easing a number of city regulations and making them more flexible for developers to work with. For example, the city would remove limits on the number of supportive housing projects allowed per developer and ease funding caps, and also offer incentives such as low-interest loans. Another recommendation is to release an online, one-stop application and approval process for Proposition HHH funds, starting this July.

The council documents note that proposals submitted under the RFI can be for modular or prefabricated housing and while some people have suggested including accessory dwelling units, that might not be the best fit considering the supportive services that will be required for previously homeless inhabitants.

### **Victorville Daily Press**

#### **Azusa Pacific nursing students join LA mayor to care for homeless**

By: Rene Rey De La Cruz

VICTORVILLE — Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** joined with High Desert Azusa Pacific University nursing students to serve the needy during the 5th Annual Skid Row Carnival of Love.

APU Lead Nursing Instructor Lydia Garcia-Usry told the Daily Press nearly two dozen of her students attended Saturday's event near downtown L.A. where her group treated the sick, washed feet, prayed and ministered the love of Jesus.

The APU students and Garcetti joined with various groups at the event just south of Dodger Stadium, where an estimated 2,000 guests were paired with nearly 4,000 volunteers, who guided them through the event and encouraged one-on-one connections.

Sponsored by The Wayfarer Foundation and billed as "a day of human kindness," the event included free food, healthcare services, haircuts, feet washing, clothing donations, games, showers, career opportunities, education, legal, housing services, pet services and other activities.

"Mayor Garcetti was very friendly and personable, and he took the time to speak with

our students,” Usry told the Daily Press. “He also chatted with the homeless and washed their feet.”

Usry said her husband, Ron, helped with the outing along with Dr. Jonathan Gottlieb from Los Angeles County+USC Medical Center.

“Dr. Gottlieb has such a heart for his patients and those who are in need,” Usry told the Daily Press. “He took the time to show our students how to treat those living on the streets.”

“This event gave our students the opportunity to experience those living in poverty and to understand their culture,” Usry said. “They had the opportunity to express compassion to the homeless and to understand what happens to their health when they live on the streets.”

Usry said the need and availability of health for the “vulnerable population” is very complicated, with many homeless having no one to help them walk through the healthcare system.

“Our students were made aware of the psychological and health aspects of being homeless,” Usry said. “When your main concern is food, finding a place to live and finding basic needs, you’re probably hard-pressed to be compliant with your health, your medication, your insulin or having your wounds dressed and cleaned.”

The Skid Row event was founded by popular actor Justin Baldoni, best known for his role on the CW network show “Jane the Virgin,” the Wayfarer Foundation said.

Garcia-Usry and the APU nursing students are currently collecting shoes and socks for the annual “Sock, Shoes and Salvation” homeless outreach on Aug. 1 at Salvation Army campus on La Paz Drive in Victorville.

## **Los Feliz Ledger**

### **Some NCs Worry Boards Still Vulnerable to Abuse**

By: Allison B. Cohen

The so-called “Starbucks Stakeholder” status, which allows anyone to cast a ballot in some Los Angeles Neighborhood Council elections—say, if they walk their dog in Griffith Park, like to watch the Bruins play in Westwood or enjoy an occasional cappuccino here, there or everywhere across Los Angeles—remains alive and well for most of the city’s 94 neighborhood council elections to be held this year, despite Los Angeles City Councilmember David Ryu’s efforts to tighten up who can vote in such elections.

Some say they believe that those with special interests have used the city’s shaky “community interest stakeholder” definition to attempt coups of neighborhood councils—over the years in Silver Lake, Eagle Rock and Westchester/Playa and most recently, some say, last May in Los Feliz by the pro-development group Abundant

Housing L.A. (AHLA)—by bringing in people who do not live in the neighborhood to vote their way in local elections.

Others, meanwhile, say such concerns are overblown and maintain that the community interest stakeholder definition is important to ensure people who may not live in a neighborhood, but still hold a strong stake in the community—such as Koreans who live and work elsewhere, but spend a majority of their free time in Koreatown—still have a voice.

While chairs of the Los Feliz election say any possible influence by AHLA is a “conspiracy” fueled by the local news media and that its May 2018 election was iron tight, others disagree, pointing to both AHLA and another group, who publicly say their goal this year is to get more representation on neighborhood councils to replace the “older,” “white,” “homeowners” who make up much of the current board demographics.

“The Los Feliz Neighborhood Council was a trial run for what they are planning to do in [the upcoming] elections,” said Brad Kane of the P.I.C.O. Neighborhood Council.

Some involved with neighborhood councils say city officials don’t want tighter rules on who can vote—in an election where over a thousand neighborhood council seats are up for grabs across the city between March and June—and that not changing the rules in time for this year was orchestrated.

“The confusion regarding the community interest stakeholder status was intentionally created by [the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment] and maybe even the mayor’s office,” said Silver Lake Neighborhood Council boardmember Anne Marie Johnson, who said she was speaking on her own behalf and not as the council’s co-chair.

Los Angeles’ neighborhood councils were created in 1999 as part of a series of reforms to bring City Hall closer to neighborhoods.

The councils are only advisory in nature. But they are often the first stop some developers make, believing a local council’s blessing will assist them in getting other city approvals down the road.

The Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment, known as DONE, manages the city’s 99 neighborhood councils.

“[DONE’s] goal is to phase out older neighborhood council members and bring in those who maybe are more sympathetic to the density goals of Mayor **Garcetti**,” Johnson said.

P.I.C.O.’s Kane echoed Johnson’s concern.

“This is all about build, baby, build,” he said, adding that DONE’s General Manager, Grayce Liu is a mayor appointee.

It's not news that Garcetti has pushed for laxer city planning rules to help stave off the city's current housing affordability and homelessness crisis.

Currently, some city officials tied to Garcetti have been named in an FBI probe regarding possible collusion and play-to-play tactics with developers.

A spokesperson for Garcetti declined to comment for this story.

Multiple requests of Liu were not returned.

AHLA additionally had some influence, also last May, in the creation of a second neighborhood council in Westwood that is more attuned, organizers say, with creating affordable housing and lowering rents for UCLA students living off-campus.

With these instances of AHLA's recent attachment to otherwise local neighborhood council races, the issue of shoring up who can vote in neighborhood council races has been a key reform many say they were waiting and depending on from Ryu.

### *The Clock Ran Out*

For his part, Ryu says his intent was for such reforms to be in place for 2019.

But Ryu was apparently caught flat-footed last December, when he learned—during a city committee hearing on the issue—that his reforms would have to wait until 2021 because they were not approved within a week of the city's 2019 neighborhood council election cycle starting.

The city's Health, Education and Neighborhood Council committee, which Ryu chairs, approved tightening voter eligibility December 11th, but the city's neighborhood council election cycle started five days later.

Ryu staffers say he was not aware of the timing issue.

"We were not alerted to the [city's timing] requirement until just before," the issue was voted on in committee, said Ryu spokesperson Estevan Montemayor in an email.

However, public records show Ryu voted in 2017 to approve such a timeline regarding rule changes for neighborhood council elections.

Further, Ryu's reforms, including voter eligibility, required approval from the Los Angeles City Council, which went on recess until mid-January shortly after the December committee meeting's approval.

According to Montemayor, the councilmember wanted to start the ball rolling on the issue last October, but held off at the request of "a number of neighborhood councils," until after the annual meeting of the Congress of Neighborhood Councils was held.

But, that meeting was held September 22, 2018, which would have satisfied those requests and given the reforms ample time to be fully approved well in advance of the start of election cycle.

Montemayor later said, via email, that Ryu had also held off while awaiting a report on the issue by what's known as the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners—another layer in the system that has “oversight” of the neighborhood councils and DONE—which he said was received December 4th.

But some say the ball was dropped in a city-trifecta between DONE; the Los Angeles City Clerk, who is managing the elections; and Ryu and his staff.

Stephen Box, a spokesperson for DONE, said January 29th that the issue was out of the department's hands as it wended its way through City Hall until its progress was abruptly stopped due to the city rules timing snafu.

“I don't think we can predict the future and I don't think that is a reasonable expectation that we do,” Box said.

Box declined to provide information regarding DONE's involvement with city agencies managing the issue, including the Los Angeles City Attorney's office, the Los Angeles City Clerk's office, the Los Angeles City Council committee that first heard the issue and Ryu's office.

But he did say the issue of who can vote in neighborhood council elections “has been a topic for a decade” and that DONE would “be in favor of clarity” on the issue.

Additionally he said, the topic, so overly discussed at this point that it is threadbare, is good for “civic engagement.”

“That is the nature of democracy,” he said. “Folks have opinions. Even the United States is grappling with this now. I think these are great topics to discuss.

### *Anger and Mistrust Everywhere*

The issue has some saying it could hurt Ryu's chances for re-election in 2020.

Jim O'Sullivan, a long time member of the neighborhood council system who is no longer on a council but remains involved with city and neighborhood issues through the Miracle Mile Residential Assoc. and an organization called Fix the City, said last December, if the neighborhood council stakeholder status reforms weren't in place for 2019, a “[expletive] storm will hit [Ryu].”

Those upset are additionally crying foul over a DONE co-sponsored recruitment meeting held in December 2018 at City Hall with the local Los Angeles chapter an organization called Global Shapers, which is composed entirely of millennials.

The group is actively working currently to get on neighborhood councils.

It is unclear if DONE has co-sponsored other such recruitment events with other demographic groups.

A request to the department for clarification on that issue was not returned.

It appears DONE was introduced to Global Shapers in December 2017 by two neighborhood councilmembers, including former LFNC president Luke Klipp.

Regarding the December 2018 recruitment event, Chelsea Byers, who spoke at the meeting and is also a director with the housing advocacy group AHLA, posted on Instagram shortly after the meeting, that a change was coming.

"Neighborhood Councils are in for a shake-up" of their "majority white ... retired, homeowner dominant board," she posted.

Some are saying this and an interview last spring on a think tank's website where DONE's Liu indicates 75% of neighborhood councils are composed of people over the age of 40, is ageist, racist and discriminatory.

But an AHLA spokesperson said that group's efforts are simply meant to "restore balance" to neighborhood councils that, he said, disproportionately represent the interests of older homeowners over renters.

The spokesperson, Mark Vallianatos, also said in an interview, that it was the LFNC's Klipp, that alerted AHLA of the council's election last May, which Klipp said is not true.

"I did not alert AHLA to the LFNC election," Klipp said in an email January 26.

Klipp became AHLA's Education Director last year shortly after his term as LFNC president ended.

### *Quick Fix Created, But Not for All Council Elections*

Reeling after the timing snafu, Ryu successfully got the city clerk in December to tighten up the rules for 2019 as a work-around.

But the so-called "administrative fix" will only work for those councils that require documents for proof of eligibility not for a majority that are "self-affirming," meaning they rely only a voter's word to show they have a stake in the community.

Not only was Ryu apparently caught unaware, so too were many neighborhood councilmembers, who say they now intend to petition the city on the issue related to their upcoming elections.

“There was no reason to believe those [reforms] would not be implemented” in time for 2019 elections, said Los Feliz Neighborhood Council former president and now boardmember Linda Demmers.

City officials, for their part, say they provided information on the 2019 election at a series of voluntary workshops held around the city in February and March of 2018, and relied on the bylaws of each council, which can be changed from time to time within a certain window before elections, regarding their voter authentication method for 2019—documentation or self-affirming—instead of asking the councils via a form, which has been customary for years.

As such, many say they weren’t worried about the issue, given Ryu and even Los Angeles City Council President Herb Wesson can be heard enthusiastically responding to public comment last May that all would be well for 2019.

Further, some say DONE representatives, who routinely scatter to attend all of the city’s neighborhood councils, never mentioned cause for concern over the months that Ryu’s reforms could possibly be in jeopardy for 2019.

Some say that’s because DONE simply prefers the looser guideline of whom can vote in neighborhood council elections as it increases voter turnout statistics, regardless of whether some ballots are cast that should not have been allowed.

### *Distrust From Some*

What is clear is that there appears to be a lack of trust between many neighborhood council leaders and the city that oversees them.

Anastasia Mann of the Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council discovered what she felt was an odd question last December when she logged into the city clerk’s website to fill out her application to run in 2019 for re-election.

The question asked applicants to answer yes or no regarding whether their council was “vulnerable to takeover.”

For many, this is proof the city is aware that its own neighborhood council system can be gamed. Others have wondered why such information was even being gathered at all.

But according to DONE the question is just a simple misunderstanding.

According to Box, the spokesperson from DONE, the department was gathering the information from 2016—and it erroneously showed up on the city clerk’s website relative to the 2019 election—to help identify councils that could possibly become unbalanced with a “category of voter [that could] potentially impact a majority” of board seats.



While the rules change from council to council, typically, a person can vote for candidates vying for a seat representing a specific area—or district.

But councils can also have as many “at large” seats they like, where a voter can cast a ballot by virtue of having an “interest” in the community—be it with a non-profit, a church or a school, for example.

### *No “Tsunami” On Its Way*

Meanwhile, some councils said they were not concerned about special interest groups influencing upcoming elections.

“Do I think a tsunami is going to happen,” because of this for 2019, said George Skarpelos, President of the Hollywood United Neighborhood Council. “No.”

Others agree and said they feel more people should be able to vote in neighborhood council elections than fewer.

Koreatown is an example of a neighborhood where Koreans eat, shop and conduct business even if they don’t live there, and as such, some 1,300 signed a petition last December asking Ryu not to change the stakeholder status definition at all.

A similar cultural attachment exists in the North Westwood Neighborhood Council, a new body born out of a breaking off of the Westwood Neighborhood Council last May in an election.

According to its president Michael Skiles, there is a large concentration of Persians who live outside the neighborhood but routinely visit to eat, shop and conduct business.

“They have a stake in the area,” he said.

Skiles said he wished Ryu’s reforms could have been in effect for 2019, but said he thinks now the city and neighborhood councils have more time to figure out a solution for what he calls a “complicated” problem, balancing the needs of the legitimately connected versus others trying to abuse the system.

The president of the Echo Park Neighborhood Council, Tad Yenawine, said his council has come up with a solution that splits the baby down the middle, requiring documentation for 12 district seats each election and allowing word-of-mouth verification for nine at-large seats, ensuring a majority of the council is “always iron-clad.”

### *The Los Feliz Conspiracy Theory*

But there does appear to be some consternation in Los Feliz.

The council's Demmers, who was recently appointed to the LFNC board to fill a vacancy after serving as its president from 2012 to 2016 said she may urge the council to petition the city to allow the council to request documents proving an interest in the neighborhood.

She said she spent the last two years of her presidency fine-tuning the council's bylaws, which now affords the LFNC board the option to vote each election cycle on how to verify voters in elections: either with documentation or not.

"That should not be discarded as just another sentence," she said.

But the LFNC's current president, Jon Deutsch, said he is not all that concerned about 2019 and any hint that anything went wrong in the council's 2018 elections, for which he served as an election co-chair, are unfounded.

The notion the council was targeted last May for a takeover, Deutsch said, is unfounded and instead the product of "conspiracy stories" fueled by the local news media.

The only reason some neighborhood councils are concerned about this issue "is because of your reporting," he said, referring to the Ledger, and he reiterated that an audit of the elections proved no funny business took place.

And while the LFNC received a handful of not uncustomary California Public Record Act requests on the election, including from the Ledger, and the typical handful of challenges to the election, an audit of election records by Deutsch and the council's other election co-chair, Dan McNamara, Deutsch said, proved the election was legitimate.

An analysis by the Ledger after receiving the council's election records—but only after the newspaper filed a lawsuit against the council when it did not provide the records in a timely fashion under California law—showed there were gaps in the sequencing of returned ballots and there were nine more ballots received than voter registrations.

Additionally, the Ledger found a handful of incidences where some voters indicated they could vote based on businesses that could not be independently confirmed or in some cases, some that listed a Los Feliz business as a "community organization" and were given access to vote.

But Marilu Guevara, the executive director of the League of Women Voters Los Angeles who was paid by the LFNC to oversee that particular election, said there were simple explanations for these issues, including League poll workers that were unfamiliar with the area, but ultimately, she said, gave ballots to those who asked for them because no voter should be ever be disenfranchised.

“At the end of the day,” Guevara said in an interview last summer, “for us to challenge someone on the spot, we would need to have a lot of tools at our disposal. Unfortunately, in neighborhood council elections, we don’t have those tools. We have to take voters at their word.”

### *Dropped Ball or Not, City Says Changes Unlikely*

While some, like the LFNC’s Demmers say they may now petition the city regarding 2019 elections, according to Christopher Garcia with the Los Angeles City Clerk’s office, such efforts are not likely to be successful.

“We don’t like to make rule changes in the middle of an election cycle,” he said, but he added the City Clerk would take into consideration what the petitioning council’s bylaws say.

Meanwhile, at least one member of the P.I.C.O. Neighborhood Council, who said he will petition, is seething.

“I have not seen anyone take action to fix this massive screw up,” Kane said.

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**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2019**

1 message

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**Cate Hurley** <cate.hurley@lacity.org>  
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Bcc: myr.pressclips@lacity.org

Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 6:59 AM

**Mayor Eric Garcetti**

LA TIMES: Eric Garcetti is done flirting with 2020? Good. L.A. needs him to get to work at home  
LA TIMES: Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti skips presidential race to 'finish the job' at home  
NEW YORK TIMES: L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti Decides Against Presidential Bid  
WALL STREET JOURNAL: Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Says He Won't Run for President  
WASHINGTON POST / AP: LA Mayor Garcetti skips 2020 and big-name Democratic field  
CNN: Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti won't run for president  
POLITICO: Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti will not run for president  
THE HILL: Garcetti won't run for president  
REUTERS: Los Angeles Mayor Garcetti says he is not running for president  
LAIST: LA Mayor Eric Garcetti Will Not Run For President In 2020  
LA DAILY NEWS: Eric Garcetti ends the speculation, says he's not running for president  
CITY NEWS SERVICE: Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Says He Will Not Run for President  
CBS NEWS: Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti says he's not running for president in 2020  
ABC NEWS: Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti passes on 2020 presidential bid  
FOX NEWS: Los Angeles mayor Garcetti says he won't run for president in 2020  
NBC NEWS: The 2020 field may be crowded — but maybe not as crowded as we originally thought  
HUFFINGTON POST: Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Says He Will Not Run For President In 2020  
THE GUARDIAN: Los Angeles mayor announces he will not run for president in 2020  
CNBC: LA Mayor Eric Garcetti ends months of speculation, decides against 2020 Democratic presidential run  
BUSINESS INSIDER: Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti says he's not running for president in the 2020 election  
CBS LOS ANGELES: LA Mayor Eric Garcetti Announces He Will Not Run For President In 2020  
ABC LOS ANGELES: Garcetti announces he's not running for president  
FOX LOS ANGELES: Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti not running for president  
LA OPINION: Mayor of Los Angeles will not seek the presidency of the United States  
TELEMUNDO: Garcetti will not run for president in 2020  
VARIETY: L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti Won't Run for President in 2020  
HOLLYWOOD REPORTER: L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti Says He Won't Run for President  
CURBED LA: Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti will not run for president in 2020  
THE WEEK: Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti won't run for president in 2020  
LA TACO: 'Are you ready for Garcetti?' ~ L.A. Mayor not running for president after all  
THE ATLANTIC: City Hall to the White House: Can't Get There From Here  
LA TIMES: Mayor Eric Garcetti's hastily announced news conference sparks intrigue  
LA TIMES: L.A. approves \$120 million to encourage building faster, cheaper homeless housing  
ABC LOS ANGELES: Parental leave: 2 LA City Council members propose policy for 100 percent paid family leave for 18 weeks  
LA DAILY NEWS: Crime is down in Los Angeles, but some West L.A. neighborhoods experienced waves of property crimes

**LA Times**

**Eric Garcetti is done flirting with 2020? Good. L.A. needs him to get to work at home**  
By: The Times Editorial Board

After more than a year of exploring a 2020 bid for the White House and spending an abnormally large amount of time in South Carolina, New Hampshire and Iowa, Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** finally announced Tuesday that, no, he will not run for president. That was the right decision.

Los Angeles is a big, complicated city with serious challenges and tremendous opportunities. It's a city that needs a full-time, fully invested mayor.

"This city deserved my attention and this position deserved my attention," Garcetti said as he explained his decision.

When the Times Editorial Board endorsed Garcetti for a second, super-sized term in 2017, we said Los Angeles needs more than a placeholder mayor and we hoped he would serve all 5½ years. We still believe it. Running for president is not a part-time job. And although Garcetti would certainly have promised not to abandon the city, the reality is that he would've spent the next two years — or one year, or six months or three months, depending on his performance — in New Hampshire, Iowa and other delegate-wooing destinations around the country.

That would've been bad news for a city that needs leadership, now as always. There are more than 50,000 homeless people across Los Angeles County, and we've only begun to figure out how to address their needs. There's a reason Los Angeles has consistently failed to "solve" homelessness — it's politically fraught, expensive work that requires years of focus and follow-through and leadership from the region's elected officials, the mayor in particular.

But there's more — Los Angeles suffers from a terrible shortage of affordable housing, and a related question of how to build a denser, more mobile city.

Garcetti's new police chief is facing questions about racial profiling in some of the city's poorest neighborhoods. An ambitious rebuilding of the city's mass transit infrastructure is underway. The need to improve our schools — which the recent strike by Los Angeles Unified School District teachers made clear — is crucial.

The list goes on and on. Water recapture. Recycling. Potholes. Earthquake retrofitting. Attracting 21st century jobs and developing a workforce to fill them. These are not issues that can be taken care of on the phone from Michigan or Florida.

Last week we saw Garcetti focused, working to end the disruptive and costly teachers' strike. Although schools aren't a formal part of his job, he jumped into the midst of the strike that had left nearly 500,000 students stranded, held Supt. Austin Beutner's and union leader Alex Caputo-Pearl's feet to the fire, and helped resolve an impasse that could have crippled the city for weeks.

That's the Eric Garcetti we'd like to see more of during the remaining four years of his mayoralty. Indeed, for all the times we've been critical of Garcetti, especially for his cautiousness in wading into difficult political issues, we have seen that when he chooses to step into the fray and lead, he can get results.

That leadership will be more vital than ever, especially as the Los Angeles Unified School District pursues a local tax measure to keep the city's public schools from falling off the financial cliff. Garcetti helped Los Angeles win the 2028 Olympics, and now he has to help build the transportation and tourism infrastructure to support the Games and deliver lasting benefits to the region.

Garcetti is still relatively young, and he's likable and articulate. He's going to have plenty of chances to move ahead in politics, in California and nationally in due time.

"I have a tremendous sense of renewal about this job," Garcetti told reporters Tuesday night.

Good. The city needs Garcetti to throw himself into being the best possible mayor, engaged, visible and authoritative, for now and for the coming years.

## **LA Times**

### **Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti skips presidential race to 'finish the job' at home**

By: Michael Finnegan and Dakota Smith

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** announced Tuesday that he will not run for president, declining to take a long-shot gamble that Democrats would pick a little-known local official to challenge President Trump.

After nearly two years of flirting with the idea that he could leap from City Hall to the world's most powerful job, the mild-mannered mayor reached a decision in keeping with his reputation for avoiding political risk. He also passed up a chance to run for governor last year when the odds seemed stacked against him.

At a City Hall news conference, Garcetti said he decided over the last couple of weeks to stay put as mayor because he "realized that this is what I am meant to do and this is where I want to be."

"It may be out of vogue today, but I kind of believe that whenever possible, you should finish the job that you set out to do," he said.

Garcetti's announcement came after settlement of a teachers' strike that upended the daily life of hundreds of thousands of people for more than a week. The mayor of L.A. has no authority over public education, but Garcetti took a high-profile role in facilitating contract settlement talks at City Hall.

Garcetti said the strike resolution was a "kick in the pants" that helped convince him stick around.

"What we have right here in Los Angeles sets the pace for the nation," he said, drawing a contrast with the partisan combat that blocks action in Washington.

Garcetti's decision also followed disclosure of a search warrant seeking email and other records that involve two of his appointees as part of an FBI investigation of possible bribery, extortion and money laundering at City Hall.

Authorities have not charged anyone with a crime, and no one has accused Garcetti of wrongdoing. But the mere existence of the investigation marked a serious setback for a mayor with little name recognition beyond Southern California.

Had he run for president, Garcetti and Sen. Kamala Harris of California would have been competing to raise money from many of the same donors, especially in Hollywood.

Harris has emerged as a top contender for the party nomination, but Garcetti said her well-received campaign rollout had no impact on his decision, which he finalized Tuesday morning.

Garcetti heaped praise on Harris and two of her Democratic rivals, former U.S. Housing Secretary Julian Castro and Mayor Pete Buttigieg of South Bend, Ind. He called Buttigieg a "big sleeper who is going to surprise people."

He also expressed confidence that Democrats will choose a strong nominee to challenge President Trump.

"When I looked at this, I didn't have a burning desire that I had to be president at all costs," Garcetti said. "That's not been a lifelong dream. This was a moment which I saw somebody who I felt was destroying this country."

On a personal note, Garcetti said he decided he did not want to spend long stretches of time away from the two things he loved most, his family and his hometown.

"There's some sadness about this moment, but not much," said Garcetti, whose wife, Amy Wakeland, and 7-year-old daughter Maya did not attend the event.

Still, Garcetti, who has been a leader on climate change in the U.S. Conference of Mayors, plans to keep traveling the country to advance urban causes.

"Those of you who know me well know that I love this job," he said. "It's tough, tough work."

The mayor's options for advancing to higher office are limited.

Under term limits, Garcetti, 47, must step down as mayor at the end of 2022. If newly elected Gov. Gavin Newsom, a fellow Democrat, runs for a second term, Garcetti could effectively be blocked from seeking that job until 2026.

Another path might open for Garcetti to capture one of California's two seats in the U.S. Senate, but he faces obstacles.

If Harris falters in her campaign for president, she will be up for reelection to the Senate in 2022, and it could be tough to unseat her in a primary.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, another Democrat, was reelected in November, and her term won't expire until 2024. If Feinstein, 85, leaves office early, the governor would name a successor. Other Democrats, such as Secretary of State Alex Padilla, would probably vie for that appointment too.

Historically, L.A. mayors stumble when they seek higher office. Antonio Villaraigosa, Richard Riordan and Tom Bradley each ran for governor and lost.

"There's just something about being mayor of a megalopolis that dominates a state that is a turn-off to voters elsewhere in the state," said Democratic consultant Garry South of Los Angeles, who described Garcetti as "bright, engaging and talented."

"It doesn't mean that history is determinative," South said. "But I think a mayor of L.A., no matter how good they are, just starts out with one strike against them in running for higher office."

The last mayor of Los Angeles to run for president was Sam Yorty in 1972. He failed to win a single delegate in his quest for the Democratic nomination to run against President Nixon.

The trouble that mayors face in seeking bigger jobs is not unique to Los Angeles. No mayor has ever vaulted straight to the presidency without serving in higher office.

"There's just no evidence that you can run credibly for president as a sitting mayor," South said.

Garcetti, who served 12 years on the City Council, including six as council president, won a second term as mayor in 2017 with 81% of the vote in a race with token opposition. He campaigned on raising the minimum wage, cutting business taxes and backing ballot measures to expand public transit and house the homeless.

The surge in homelessness on Garcetti's watch would have posed a huge challenge in a presidential race. Tent encampments have sprouted across freeway overpasses and underpasses and along sidewalks, alleys, beaches and river banks.

Garcetti won passage of a ballot measure to build new housing for the homeless, but it will take years for it to have any visible impact. He has also launched a program to build shelters in neighborhoods across the city.

"My work is right before me," Garcetti said on Tuesday. "Who knows what the future is?"

## **New York Times**

### **L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti Decides Against Presidential Bid**

By: Tim Arango

LOS ANGELES — **Eric M. Garcetti**, the two-term mayor of Los Angeles who has flirted with higher office the last two years by crisscrossing the country and raising money for the Democratic Party, said Tuesday he was not running for his party's nomination for president.

Mr. Garcetti has spent the better part of two years saying he was actively considering running for president, but explained Tuesday that he wanted to continue his work in Los Angeles.

"I just feel a deep commitment to that work," he said at a news conference. "The truth is right before me. The work is in front of me."

Mr. Garcetti would have joined a crowded and growing field of Democratic presidential candidates — including his home-state senator, Kamala Harris — and would have done so facing long odds. No sitting mayor has ever been elected president.

The mayor praised Ms. Harris and said he was "proud" and "excited" about her candidacy; he did not make any endorsements, however. He also had good words for several Democrats who are now considering 2020 bids: He said Senator Cory Booker of New Jersey was a close friend of many years, and called former New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg a "good friend and mentor."

Asked if he would consider being a vice-presidential candidate, he said, "I think I got a better job than that."

Mr. Garcetti, 47, is a former Rhodes Scholar who has spent much of his professional life in city government, and reflects the diversity of the city he leads, with Italian, Jewish and Mexican roots. In a city that is majority Latino, Mr. Garcetti, when speaking publicly, often switches back and forth between English and Spanish. He grew up as the son of a prominent public official in the city — his father, Gil Garcetti, is a former district attorney who became nationally known as the prosecutor leading the O.J. Simpson trial.

Mr. Garcetti, along with other leaders in a state that has steadily become more liberal, has eagerly touted Los Angeles — and California — as a counterweight to the agenda of President Trump, giving him a national profile that he, at one point, thought could make him a viable national candidate. He has embraced Los Angeles's role as a sanctuary city that protects undocumented immigrants from federal immigration authorities, and sought to shape the agenda of the Democratic Party by pushing for more liberal policy goals.

In an interview in late 2017 with The New York Times, as he was already thinking about running for president, Mr. Garcetti described himself as a member of the "impatient next generation" of Democratic leaders.

For all his appeal as a Democratic candidate, he has few major accomplishments to point to as the mayor of Los Angeles, a famously decentralized place where the mayor has lesser powers than one would in other major cities. But he is coming off a high point, having helped negotiate an agreement to end the recent teachers' strike in the nation's second-largest school district. He has also been credited with expanding public transportation, and helped secure the Olympics for Los Angeles in 2028.

But he has presided over the city at a time when homelessness has skyrocketed. While Mr. Garcetti can claim success in convincing voters to pass a ballot measure to build housing for the homeless, tens of thousands still live on the city's streets.

Tent encampments have sprouted seemingly everywhere — under freeway overpasses, in parks, on street corners. As he weighed whether to run for the presidency, the ease in which any opponent could film dystopian scenes of the Los Angeles streets in attack campaign ads was seen by some as a deterrent to running.

At his news conference, Mr. Garcetti repeatedly underscored his desire to keep working on his goals for Los Angeles.

"This is where I wanted to be," he said. "This city deserved my attention."

#### **Wall Street Journal**

##### **Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Says He Won't Run for President**

By: Reid J. Epstein

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** won't seek the Democratic presidential nomination, saying it was a hard choice to make but that he was committed to his work as mayor.

"This was not an easy decision given the extraordinary times we live," he said at a news conference at Los Angeles City Hall. "I am committed to the work we have to do...I believe wherever possible you should set out to finish the job you set out to do.

Mr. Garcetti, 47 years old, told reporters at the U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting in Washington last week that he would soon make a decision on whether to mount a campaign.

The mayor said he had been encouraged by the resolution of the city's weeklong teachers' strike. He helped leaders from the city's school district and teachers union reach an agreement.

"I do believe more than ever before that people are hungry to break down the old things that separate us," he told reporters in Washington.

Mr. Garcetti would have been considered a long shot in a field of Democratic presidential contenders that includes Sens. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, Kirsten Gillibrand of New York and Kamala Harris from Mr. Garcetti's home state of California.

Several prominent Democrats are still considering campaigns, including former Vice President Joe Biden, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Rep. Beto O'Rourke of Texas.

#### **Washington Post / AP**

##### **LA Mayor Garcetti skips 2020 and big-name Democratic field**

By: Michael Blood and Bill Barrow

LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** explained his decision to sit out the 2020 presidential contest in simple terms — the city, he said, "is where I want to be."

The challenges in front of him were obvious.

Already overshadowed by the White House run of his fellow California Democrat, Sen. Kamala Harris, the low-key mayor in his second term would have faced a long list of obstacles that would come with trying to manage a city of 4 million while mounting a national campaign in states where he is virtually unknown.

The Democratic field is growing crowded with bigger names, including Sens. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, with more expected to enter the race. Garcetti would have contended with an ominous historical barrier — no mayor has ever won a major party's presidential nomination. And he would have needed to explain why he should be in the White House with L.A.'s downtown streets lined by homeless encampments and freeway traffic often at a standstill.

Only recently, he had suspended his consideration of a 2020 bid during a teachers strike, a sign of the diversions that would come with trying to be a mayor-candidate.

Talking with reporters Tuesday at City Hall, Garcetti waved off the suggestion that Harris' presence in the race had discouraged his interest in challenging President Donald Trump. As a candidate, he would have been competing with Harris for donors in Hollywood, organized labor and business, while fighting for votes in their shared home state, where the primary is planned for early March 2020 alongside a gaggle of Southern states.

After ending months of speculation about his political future, he said he was proud of Harris but that her candidacy had no influence on his decision. You have to "listen to your own heart," he added.



The timing of Garcetti's announcement came as something of a surprise. The 47-year-old mayor sounded like a presidential candidate as recently as last week, using a national conference of his fellow mayors to criticize Trump in a speech delivered blocks from the White House. He lamented a divide between "Washington and the rest of us."

But on Tuesday, Garcetti said Los Angeles "is where I want to be and this is a place where we have so much exciting work to finish."

"I kind of believe that whenever possible, you should finish the job that you set out to do," he added.

Garcetti raised his national profile in 2018 by campaigning and raising money for Democratic candidates and state parties around the country. His \$2.5 million-plus in party fundraising included \$100,000 each for the state parties in each of the first four presidential nominating states of Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina. He made stops in several of those states and other longtime battlegrounds like Ohio, where he frequently talked about the city's transit-building boom

Even bowing out, Garcetti could remain a key figure for the party, eventually being a surrogate for the nominee or perhaps a vice presidential running mate. He could also position himself for a Cabinet post — particularly secretary of transportation or housing and urban development — should a Democrat ultimately prevail.

Garcetti defended mayors as good presidential candidates, saying their experience as chief executives squared well with the job in the White House. Former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg still is weighing a run, and former New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu is also mentioned as a potential candidate, though he has not made the recent moves of someone positioning himself for a run.

Asked about whether he would pledge to complete his term at City Hall, Garcetti was noncommittal. He also steered around a question about whether he'd be interested in becoming vice president, quipping that he had a better job at City Hall.

"Who knows what the future is," he said, adding later, "Life is long."

*Also appeared in: [Talking Points Memo](#), [KTLA](#)*

## **CNN**

### **Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti won't run for president**

By: Maeve Reston and Dan Merica

(CNN) -- Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** announced Tuesday evening that he would not pursue a run for the White House in 2020, stating that solving Los Angeles' homelessness crisis and other problems needed his full attention.

"I have decided not to throw my hat into the ring to run for president in 2020. This was not an easy decision given the extraordinary times that we live in," Garcetti said.

Speaking of Los Angeles and his role as mayor, Garcetti said, "I realized that this is what I am meant to do, this is where I want to be and this is a place where we have so much exciting work to finish."

Garcetti, a Rhodes Scholar who has deep ties to Democratic progressives and close relationships with many California donors, had flirted with the idea of a presidential bid for more than a year, visiting the early-voting states of Iowa, South Carolina and New Hampshire.

But in the end, facing a potentially enormous and formidable Democratic field, he decided that the crises in his hometown, including traffic and huge infrastructure projects, deserved his full focus.

Garcetti has close ties to former President Barack Obama and was one of his earliest supporters in 2008. That might have helped his dark horse candidacy. But he also has many close friendships with candidates who have announced or will announce, including Sens. Cory Booker and Kamala Harris and South Bend, Indiana Mayor Pete Buttigieg.

Garcetti would have entered a Democratic field that is only expected to get more crowded in the coming months. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand and Buttigieg have all announced exploratory committees, while Sen. Kamala Harris, former Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julian Castro, Rep. Tulsi Gabbard and others have all announced formal campaigns.

In his travels through the early states, Garcetti had framed himself as a big city mayor who solved kitchen table problems. He often pointed out that the population of Los Angeles is larger than that of some states in the US.

A star in activist Democratic circles, he also played up his roots as the grandson of a Mexican immigrant.

He often joked about his heritage as "just your average Mexican-American-Jewish-Italian," reviving a line from his speech at the 2016 Democratic National Convention.

He also played a major role in bringing the 2028 Olympics to the City of Angels.

Garcetti's advisers had believed his complex identity was part of what set him apart in what will likely become the largest and most diverse field of Democratic presidential candidates in generations.

In addition to being a Rhodes Scholar with undergraduate and master's degrees from Columbia University, he studied at the London School of Economics. His father was the Los Angeles district attorney who unsuccessfully prosecuted OJ Simpson.

On his first tour of Iowa as a potential 2020 contender, Garcetti attempted to tie his background to the experience of Iowans, who will drive the early race for the Democratic presidential nomination.

He said that Angelenos share the same aspirations and concerns as Iowans -- including crumbling infrastructure, traffic and homelessness.

Garcetti played coy with his presidential aspirations earlier this month. When asked about his thinking on the issue, he said, "Stay tuned."

But at the same news conference, the mayor laid out an argument for why a mayor should be the Democratic nominee for President.

"The old saying was that states are the laboratories of democracy. I think that has even further devolved into cities," Garcetti said. "Even if I don't run, I hope a lot of mayors do run. And if I do run, I will be proud to be on a stage with other mayors."

Garcetti's recent focus, however, hasn't been electoral politics. After thousands of teachers walked off the job in Los Angeles earlier this month, Garcetti helped broker a deal between the United Teachers Los Angeles union and the Los Angeles Unified School District, and teachers went back to work earlier this week.

Garcetti said the teacher's strike "stopped my thinking" about running for president in 2020, but "didn't change it."

## **Politico**

### **Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti will not run for president**

By: David Siders, Christopher Cadelago, and Daniel Strauss

LOS ANGELES — **Eric Garcetti** will not run for president in 2020, he confirmed late Tuesday, saying that being mayor of Los Angeles is "what I am meant to do."

Garcetti, who traveled extensively for months as he mulled a presidential run, said at a hastily arranged news conference here that in local government he saw a "vision of a brighter future and a better day" that stood in "contrast to what we see coming out of Washington, D.C., every day."

"Reflecting on those travels and recognizing the incredible opportunity that I have every single day as mayor of this great town," Garcetti said, "I realized that this is what I am meant to do, this is where I want to be, and this is a place where we have so much exciting work to finish."

Garcetti called the recently settled teachers' strike in Los Angeles "a little bit of a kick in the pants for me that what we have right here in Los Angeles sets the pace for the nation."

He said he had decided against running for president "a couple of weeks ago in my mind, but not finally until this morning."

The 47-year-old mayor, whose term does not end until 2022, declined to foreclose on a future campaign. When asked about running for vice president on a potential 2020 ticket, however, he said, "I think I've got a better job than that."

He said, "I kind of believe that whenever possible, you should finish the job that you set out to do."

He said no other candidate's entry into the race — including that of Sen. Kamala Harris, a fellow Californian — dissuaded him. However, he said that he was confident the Democratic nominee in 2020 could defeat President Donald Trump and that "I feel even more secure in my decision watching the field of candidates who are jumping into the race in 2020."

Garcetti, a fourth-generation Angeleno of Mexican-Italian-Jewish descent, had been edging toward a presidential run, using the midterm elections to launch a tightly choreographed play in which he traveled the country and built up goodwill by raising more than \$1 million for state Democratic parties.

But the demands on his time in working to help settle a recent teachers' strike in his home city put those plans on hold, Garcetti acknowledged to reporters last week at the U.S. Conference of Mayors in Washington.

Several Democratic activists and officials on the ground in Iowa, South Carolina and New Hampshire told POLITICO that they had heard nothing from the mayor recently about a possible run.

"It's radio silence," said one Democrat in an early presidential state.

No mayor has ever jumped directly from City Hall to the White House, and the prospects of such a feat in 2020 appeared long. But Garcetti had been at the front of a handful of Democratic mayors considering presidential campaigns. Earlier this month, Mayor Pete Buttigieg of South Bend, Ind., entered the race.

In 2017, Garcetti started a nonprofit group of mayors working with labor and business leaders to fund investments in cities around the country, giving him a platform to travel extensively as he mulled a campaign.

During the midterm elections, Garcetti used his expansive Hollywood donor network to raise money for state parties — including some small, typically overlooked states — hosting fundraisers for them in Los Angeles.

Last year, he hosted a Hollywood fundraiser with talk show host Jimmy Kimmel and DJ Khaled that raised more than \$1 million, divided among 10 state parties. Garcetti had previously raised \$100,000 for the South Carolina Democratic Party at a fundraiser in Los Angeles' Hancock Park.

Thanking Garcetti at that event, the chairman of the South Carolina Democratic Party, Trav Robertson, said to applause, "After the mess we've got in Washington, we all may need somebody who's got experience managing a large government and an economy."

As he considered running, Garcetti sought to position himself as an officeholder who is especially grounded in the day-to-day concerns of governing. Contrasting Los Angeles explicitly with Washington in his State of the City address last year, he described the city he oversees as "thriving, strong, stable and decent."

Still, Garcetti has been dogged by a pervasive homelessness crisis in Los Angeles. Writing in the Los Angeles Times last year, columnist Steve Lopez told readers that with a such a crisis in their city, "this could be the year Garcetti's presidential pipe dream ruptures under a shantytown in the homeless capital of the United States."

Garcetti's exit comes two days after Harris launched her presidential campaign with a massive rally in Oakland. Earlier this month, a third Californian, billionaire environmentalist Tom Steyer, announced that he would not run for president in 2020.

Garcetti said he is a friend of many of the Democratic Party's top contenders, and he called Buttigieg, a fellow mayor, "a big sleeper who's going to surprise people."

He pledged to continue to advocate for cities, saying, "I think it is time for a radical federalism in this country, where people trust innovation coming from the local level and ramp that up."

Garcetti acknowledged "some sadness about this moment, but not much. I mostly have excitement about it."

He said that when he told his 7-year-old daughter he did not plan to run for president, she told him "That's good. You'll be home more."

Garcetti said, "That's when I knew it was the right decision."

## **The Hill**

### **Garcetti won't run for president**

By: Max Greenwood

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** will not run for president in 2020, quashing speculation that he could be the next candidate to enter an increasingly crowded Democratic primary field.

Speaking at a news conference at Los Angeles City Hall on Tuesday, Garcetti said that after giving thought to a presidential run, he decided the mayor's office "is where I want to be."

"I believe that whenever possible you should finish the job you set out to do," Garcetti told reporters. "So I have decided not to throw my hat into the ring to run for president in 2020. This was not an easy decision given the extraordinary times we live in."

News of Garcetti's decision was first reported by Politico on Tuesday. A source close to the Los Angeles mayor confirmed the decision to The Hill. An adviser to Garcetti did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Garcetti, fresh off a trip to Washington, drew a striking contrast between his work in Los Angeles city government and what he described as dysfunction at the federal level, pointing to the recent five-week government shutdown that ended only on Friday.

"It is such an honor to work at the local level, where America works every single day," he said. "You can't make anything great if you can't make it work."

In a series of tweets, Garcetti said his tour of cities around the country led him to conclude his role is best served as a local leader.

"Reflecting on my travels and recognizing the incredible opportunity I have every day as an American mayor, I realized that this is what I am meant to do," he tweeted. "This is where I want to be."

"I am so excited to finish the work that we have begun here in Los Angeles," he added.

The decision not to seek the Democratic nomination in 2020 came a week after Garcetti notched a political victory when he struck a deal with the Los Angeles teachers union to end a six-day strike that shut down schools and left more than 600,000 students in limbo.

Garcetti's decision also came days after another Californian, Sen. Kamala Harris (D), officially kicked off her campaign for the White House on Sunday with a rally in Oakland.

Speculation that Garcetti was eyeing a presidential run had swirled for months. During the 2018 midterms, Garcetti leveraged his credentials as the mayor of the country's second largest city to raise money for state Democratic parties in a play that many took as a sign of his presidential ambitions.

Garcetti was in Washington last week, where he was greeted by fellow mayors as a rock star in the making. Several mayors told The Hill they had private conversations with Garcetti, who appeared to be paving the way for a presidential bid.

Garcetti said during a press conference on Thursday that his decision had been put on hold by the teachers strike and that he did not have a specific timeline for announcing a potential campaign.

But he also used the press conference to tout his experience as mayor, arguing that the federal government could stand to learn from city officials how to tackle disagreements and reach compromises, keeping alive rumors that he was still considering a White House bid.

"Even if I don't run, I hope that a lot of mayors do. Mayors know how to run things," Garcetti said on Thursday. "I don't think it's a résumé anymore that fits into people's preconceived notions."

The Democratic primary field has grown increasingly crowded in recent weeks. So far, eight candidates have thrown their names into the running, including Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) and Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii).

Several other Democrats are expected to announce presidential bids of their own in the coming weeks.

## **Reuters**

### **Los Angeles Mayor Garcetti says he is not running for president**

(Reuters) - Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said on Tuesday he would not join what is likely to be a crowded field of candidates vying for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination.

"I have decided not to throw my hat into the ring to run for president in 2020," Garcetti told a news conference at City Hall.

Garcetti, 47, who was re-elected in 2017 to a second term as mayor of the country's second-largest city, said: "It may be out of vogue today but I kind of believe that whenever possible you should finish the job you set out to do."

Last year, Garcetti fueled speculation that he would seek the presidential nomination with trips to Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina, states that hold some of the earliest presidential nominating contests.

A fellow Californian, U.S. Senator Kamala Harris, launched her White House bid last week, becoming the latest Democrat to seek the party's nomination to face Republican President Donald Trump in the November 2020 election.

Democratic Senators Elizabeth Warren and Kirsten Gillibrand, former San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro and U.S. Representative Tulsi Gabbard are among those already in the race, and more U.S. senators are weighing bids.

Garcetti was an early backer of Democrat Barack Obama's first White House bid in 2008, and acted as a Spanish-speaking surrogate for Obama's campaign in key states ahead of the election. He backed Hillary Clinton in the 2016 race against Trump.

He is the son of former Los Angeles County District Attorney Gil Garcetti, who was the city's top prosecutor during the murder trial of O.J. Simpson in the 1990s.

## **LAist**

### **LA Mayor Eric Garcetti Will Not Run For President In 2020**

By: Mary Plummer

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** had been flirting with a presidential run for well over a year.

He'd been expanding his national profile with trips to key primary states. He created a PAC in late 2017.

"Stay tuned," he told reporters as recently as last week, when he spoke at the US Mayor's conference in Washington, D.C.

Today, he gave his answer.

"I have decided not to throw my hat into the ring to run for president in 2020," Garcetti told reporters at a news conference called late in the day Tuesday.

His decision came following a big week for the second-term mayor. Garcetti made headlines after working through the night to help negotiate an end to the L.A. teachers strike.

Then he spoke to a national crowd in Washington where he was critical of the Trump administration, steering clear of mentioning the president by name.

His "stay tuned" quip there fueled speculation about whether he would join fellow Californian U.S. Senator Kamala Harris in what is shaping up to be a very crowded 2020 field for Democrats.

In announcing he wanted to remain in L.A, saying he had "so much important work to finish," Garcetti emphasized that his desire to finish a job he had started.

"This is what I'm meant to do," he said. Although during questioning, he also noted that he's not ruling out a future run for president. "Who knows?" he said.

Notably, however, Garcetti did not commit to finishing the final four years of his term. His tenure in office is extended because of a switch in the election cycle. That answer followed his prepared remarks on being "old-fashioned" for deciding not to leave office now.

Garcetti said Sen. Kamala Harris's decision to run had "zero percent" to do with his decision not to run. He said he was proud of Harris, but also said he had many friends vying for the presidency. He did not say who he plans to endorse in the primaries.

Garcetti said of the current climate in Washington, "We look to a government that would be kind and caring, but today we see one that is... cruel."

"It is such an honor to work at the local level, where America works every day," he said "We all need to make America work again, and you can count on me in that fight now and always."

In the past, Garcetti has pointed to success on issues such as raising the minimum wage in Los Angeles and helping reduce community college costs. He's also argued that as a mayor, he is adept at fixing problems and getting things done.

But Garcetti also faced a long list of potential vulnerabilities on the national stage.

He's been criticized for failing to do more to reduce the startlingly high numbers of homeless people in L.A.

Garcetti's decision not to run also comes at a time when the FBI is investigating City Hall. While Garcetti is not suspected of being a target of the FBI probe — a federal search warrant that surfaced increased speculation that investigators are looking into whether developers have improperly influenced elected officials.

Despite being mayor of the nation's second biggest city, basic name recognition on the national stage posed another challenge for Garcetti.

Until taking office as mayor in 2013, Garcetti had served since 2001 as a councilmember for the city's 13th District, which includes Hollywood, Echo Park and Silver Lake.

Los Angeles is still expected to be of interest in the upcoming national campaign. Why? Follow the money. L.A. is traditionally the scene of an intense battle for fundraising dollars. Top presidential campaigns typically raise between about \$50 and \$100 million dollars ahead of primary elections.

Democrats have found California's entertainment and tech industry to be generous donors in the past. The Democratic National Committee has already announced a national debate schedule that will start this summer, with the first Democratic debates set to take place in June and July.

California will hold its presidential primary Mar. 3, 2020.

#### **LA Daily News**

#### **Eric Garcetti ends the speculation, says he's not running for president**

By: Kevin Modesti

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** ended months of rumors Tuesday, saying he does not plan to run for president in 2020.

At a City Hall news conference, Garcetti said he made the decision two weeks ago "in my mind," but wasn't positive until Tuesday morning.

"I realized that this (being mayor) is what I want to do, where I want to be."

As mayor, Garcetti faces a host of issues in Los Angeles, including homelessness and housing affordability. He also figures to lead the city as it prepares for its role as the host of the 2028 Summer Olympics, an event he was instrumental in landing for Los Angeles.

"I'm... kind of old-fashioned," Garcetti said. "I believe you should finish the job you set out to do."

The announcement ends a long stretch of political cat and mouse, with Garcetti refusing to stamp out rumors that he was looking at the White House even as his camp established possible campaign operations in Iowa, South Carolina and other early primary states.

Garcetti indicated his role in helping to negotiate a settlement in the recent teachers strike in Los Angeles — a role that might have helped fuel a national campaign — helped him decide to stay in his current job.

"The (strike settlement) was a kick in the pants for me," Garcetti said. "It made me realize what we have here."

Garcetti, who turns 48 next week, made his announcement — in English and Spanish — as first-term California Sen. Kamala Harris has seen her official presidential bid gain some early traction.

Early polling released Tuesday from Washington Post/ABC News shows that a majority of Americans (56 percent) now say they "definitely will not vote for Donald Trump" in 2020, but they have no clear-cut favorite to replace him. Former Vice President Joe Biden leads most Democrats in the field, followed closely by Harris, but both candidates have only single-digit support so far.

Other recent polling — from Harris Interactive, YouGov, Quinnipiac University, Rasmussen Reports and Ipsos — all show majorities of Americans (between 52 percent and 57 percent) disapproving of Trump's job performance.

Jaime Regalado, professor emeritus of political science at Cal State Los Angeles, said he's surprised Garcetti tapped the breaks on his ambition, but thinks the mayor made the decision not to run because he "probably felt he couldn't win" the Democratic nomination.

"He probably saw the tea leaves, many (other candidates) getting a head start, and saw he couldn't raise enough money to compete," Regalado said.

"He mentioned Kamala Harris, and she's going to draw a lot of big donors to her effort."

Regalado added that Garcetti's role in settling the LAUSD teachers strike both helped and harmed the mayor politically. It lent credence to his claim to be someone who brings opposing sides together and solves problems, but it also drew criticism because he didn't jump into the dispute earlier, and it left him "grounded politically for two or three weeks" and unable to start a national campaign.

Regalado said it's possible Garcetti could land a White House job if a Democrat wins in '20 and he has helped in that effort.

Garcetti said Harris' campaign didn't affect his decision, but he feels "much more secure in my decision (to not run) when I see the field of Democratic candidates taking shape." He also said he's confident a Democrat will defeat Trump in 2020.

Harris and Garcetti are both viewed as left-leaning Democrats, and it's possible they would have vied for the same voters and campaign donors. It's also unclear if Garcetti would be able to carve out national name recognition, or how much money he might need to solidify that effort.

Garcetti has been criticized in some quarters as inexperienced, having served as mayor of Los Angeles since 2013 after a six-year stint on the Los Angeles City Council.

He did not rule out running for president in the future, or running for Harris' senate seat if she should win the White House.

#### **City News Service**

#### **Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Says He Will Not Run for President**

After more than a year of speculation and travels to political hotspots across the country, Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** announced Tuesday he has decided against a bid for the presidency in 2020.

"Reflecting on those travels and recognizing the incredible opportunity I have every single day as mayor of this great town, I realize this is what I am meant to do," Garcetti said at a City Hall news conference. "This is where I want to be and this is a place where we have so much exciting work to finish. I've also realized in my thinking that I'm kind of old-fashioned. It may be out of vogue today, but I kind of believe that whenever possible, you should finish the job that you set out to do."

Garcetti was reelected to a second term in 2017 in a landslide and has openly explored a potential presidential run ever since through a number of political trips, including visits to Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina.

But with a likely Democratic field that political experts estimate will reach more than 20 contenders, Garcetti chose to stay at City Hall for the time being.

"This was not an easy decision given the extraordinary times we live in," he said. "As an American, like so many of us, we look to Washington for our better angels. We look to a government that would be kind and caring, but today we see one that is corrupt and cruel. Worst of all, they can't seem to get anything done."

"... You can't make anything great if it doesn't even work, and we all need to make America work again," he said in another jab at President Donald Trump. "And you can count on me in that fight always. I'm so proud to be mayor of this city, the City of Angels, 4 million souls who have entrusted in me the leadership of this city of tomorrow. It embodies an America where we all belong."

He said he was encouraged by the people who have already thrown their hats into the ring.

"Each of them share my belief in a more United States of America," he said. "And they can count on me to be with them every step of that fight to take our country back."

Until as recently as last week, Garcetti acknowledged to reporters he was still thinking of running.

"I think we have a TV reality star as president. We had our first African-American president," Garcetti said last week when asked about the potential of being the first mayor to jump right into the White House. "The time for obviously trying new things -- in both positive and sometimes negative ways -- is upon us. I don't think it's about your resume anymore."

## **Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti says he's not running for president in 2020**

By: Grace Segers and Jack Turman

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** announced he is not running for president at a press conference at City Hall Tuesday evening amid months of speculation regarding about a potential bid in 2020.

"I realize that this is what I am meant to do. This is where I want to be," Garcetti said about being mayor of Los Angeles. "I believe that whenever possible, you should finish the job you started out to do."

Garcetti had recently traveled to key primary states, indicating he was leaning towards running for the Democratic nomination. In April, he went to Iowa to meet with Democratic activists. He made two trips to New Hampshire in as many months, and also traveled to Nevada and South Carolina.

"Over the last year I have traveled through America, and I have witnessed an American awakening," Garcetti said, calling it "quite a contrast" to what is occurring in Washington, D.C. He also gave a statement on why he was not running for president in Spanish.

Garcetti said he felt confident about his decision in part because of all the candidates jumping into the race, whom he called "friends, colleagues, and even fellow mayors." He said he was "proud" and "excited" for the presidential candidacy of Sen. Kamala Harris, a fellow Californian, and his decision had nothing to do with her running for president.

When asked about candidates he liked in the race, Garcetti named Harris, Pete Buttigieg and Julián Castro, as well as Sen. Cory Booker and former Vice President Joe Biden, neither of whom has declared a presidential bid.

He joked he might run for president in the future, quipping: "Garcetti 2040." He did say "who knows" what the future holds for him politically.

Garcetti would have been one of several mayors in a crowded Democratic field. Buttigieg, the mayor of South Bend, Indiana, jumped into the race at the end of January. Former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg is also mulling a bid.

"I think mayors make good presidents," Garcetti said during his press conference.

Garcetti served on city council before he was elected mayor in 2013, becoming the first Jewish mayor in Los Angeles history. His administration has prioritized raising the minimum wage, improving transportation and addressing the homelessness crisis in the city.

On the national stage, Garcetti worked to rally more than 400 mayors to adopt the guidelines set in the Paris Climate Agreement after President Trump announced the U.S. would withdraw from the agreement.

### **ABC News**

#### **Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti passes on 2020 presidential bid**

By: Josh Verhovek

**Eric Garcetti**, the 47-year-old mayor of Los Angeles, announced Tuesday that he will not seek the Democratic nomination for president in 2020.

"This is where I want to be, and this is a place where we have so much exciting work to finish," Garcetti said at a press conference at Los Angeles City Hall. "I have decided not to throw my hat in the ring to run for President in 2020."

He added, "This was not an easy decision given the extraordinary times that we live in. ... As an American, like so many of us we look to Washington, we look to a government that would be kind and caring, but today we see one that is corrupt and cruel."

Garcetti also said he felt "even more sincere" in his decision after seeing the crop of candidates who have already announced their candidacies, including his fellow Californian, Sen. Kamala Harris.

"First of all let me say how excited I am for Kamala," Garcetti said, adding that Harris personally called him to say she was running.

Garcetti added that Harris' decision did not influence the one he announced Tuesday evening.

"I said from the beginning that nobody jumping in was what this decision was about," Garcetti said.

Another factor in his decision was his confidence in the ability of the growing field of Democrats vying to take on President



Donald Trump in 2020. Garcetti said he will do what he can to help them win.

"I didn't have a burning desire that I had to be president at all costs, that's not been a life-long dream, this was a moment when I saw somebody who I felt was destroying this country," Garcetti said. "The weaker that he gets and the stronger that our field gets makes me even more confident about the work I can do here. I'll help them -- I'll work very hard."

The mayor of America's second most-populous city, Garcetti had been one of the most active potential 2020 candidates over the past year, making trips to the critical, early primary states of Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina.

At a press conference last week in the nation's capital, Garcetti told reporters to "stay tuned" on a possible presidential announcement, but that his mind had been preoccupied with ending the Los Angeles teachers strike. It finally came to a conclusion earlier this month after the teachers union and city officials reached an agreement.

While he is now officially declining to run, Garcetti said he believes nominating a candidate without ties to Washington could be an asset for Democrats in 2020.

"Right now Americans that live in the real America bring a perspective that is different," Garcetti said last week at the U.S. Conference of Mayors in Washington. "It's not about sending tweets. A victory is not about how many likes you get, a victory is paving a street, opening a factory, is getting real things done."

Of the major Democratic candidates that have either announced presidential bids or have taken steps towards one, South Bend, Indiana's Pete Buttigieg is currently the only mayor in the race.

Other current and former mayors thought to be mulling presidential bids include New York City's Bill de Blasio and Michael Bloomberg and New Orleans' Mitch Landrieu.

## **Fox News**

### **Los Angeles mayor Garcetti says he won't run for president in 2020**

LOS ANGELES – Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** will not seek the Democratic presidential nomination in 2020, slightly winnowing a field that is still likely to be large and unwieldy for a party desperate to oust President Donald Trump.

"I have decided not to throw my hat into the ring to run for president in 2020," the mayor said Tuesday at Los Angeles City Hall, ending months of speculation about his political future. His decision came days after he helped negotiate an end to a teachers strike in Los Angeles public schools.

The 47-year-old mayor sounded like a presidential candidate as recently as last week, using a national confab of his fellow mayors to blast Trump and a hyperpartisan Congress in a speech delivered blocks from the White House. National politicians, he said, divide the nation into "red and blue states" when the real divide, he argued, "is Washington and the rest of us."

After that address, he held court as the assembled national media peppered him with questions about whether he'd join his fellow Californian, Sen. Kamala Harris, in the 2020 Democratic presidential field.

While the presidential field is still likely to grow, Garcetti's exit could help Harris consolidate the state's considerable cache of donors. It also means she will not have a native competing for votes in the California primary, which is planned for early March 2020 alongside a gaggle of Southern states.

Garcetti raised his profile in 2018 by campaigning and raising money for Democratic candidates and state parties around the country. His \$2.5 million-plus in party fundraising included \$100,000 each for the state parties in each of the first four presidential nominating states of Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina. He made stops in several of those states and other longtime battlegrounds like Ohio.

Emphasizing his argument that the greatest political progress in the United States occurs locally, Garcetti often touted the \$120 billion infrastructure initiative Los Angeles voters approved during his tenure as a contrast to years of infrastructure talk on Capitol Hill, with no national long-term plan. He noted that managing parks, police and potholes isn't a partisan exercise.

Even bowing out, Garcetti could remain a key figure for the party, eventually being a surrogate for the nominee or perhaps a vice presidential running mate. He could also position himself for a Cabinet post -- particularly secretary of transportation or housing and urban development -- should a Democrat ultimately prevail.

Garcetti's outsider pitch echoed that of other mayors and governors who have considered joining a campaign currently dominated by senators, including Harris, Kirsten Gillibrand of New York and Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts. Other notable Washington figures, including New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Vice

President Joe Biden, could soon join.

Mayors face plenty of historical and practical barriers in trying to achieve national ambitions.

No mayor has ever won a major party's presidential nomination, and even with the increased urbanization of the electorate, rural and small-town voters still cast skeptical eyes on the nation's largest cities, particularly those along the coast.

Garcetti jokingly acknowledged those cultural gaps in some of his political travels, sometimes reminding overwhelmingly white audiences of his Mexican-Jewish-Italian roots and jokingly calling himself a "kosher burrito."

As to whether mayors are qualified for the Oval Office, Garcetti noted that his city's population -- more than 4 million -- exceeds that of more than 20 U.S. states.

Former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg still is weighing a run, though he is known perhaps as much as a billionaire businessman, philanthropist and political financier as he is a big-city politician. Current New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio has not ruled out a bid. Former New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu is mentioned as a potential candidate, though he has not made the recent moves of someone positioning himself for a run.

#### **NBC News**

#### **The 2020 field may be crowded — but maybe not as crowded as we originally thought**

By: Chuck Todd, Mark Murray, and Carrie Dann

WASHINGTON — Another day, another potential 2020 Democrat — Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** — is saying no to a presidential run.

And it raises the question: Is the ultimate Democratic field going to be smaller than everyone anticipated? More like 12 to 15 candidates instead of the 20 to 30 folks have talked about?

Right now, we have seven candidates who have declared or who have filed paperwork, and it already feels a bit, well, crowded. Part of that is due to Sens. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., Kamala Harris, D-Calif., and Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., announcing early, and staking claims to their lanes.

And part of it is due to the fact that Joe Biden, Bernie Sanders and Beto O'Rourke have the name ID, potential resources and ability to wait on a decision, thus freezing the rest of the field.

If you're not in early, and if you're not Biden, Sanders, O'Rourke or a billionaire like Mike Bloomberg, it becomes harder and harder to differentiate yourself and your candidacy.

To quote Yogi Berra, "It's getting late early."

And that's a good way to view the emerging 2020 Democratic field.

#### **UPDATING OUR 2020 LIST: WHO'S IN, WHO'S OUT, WHO ARE WE STILL WAITING ON?**

Those who have filed paperwork or announced presidential bids (7)

- Sen. Kamala Harris (who announced on January 21)
- Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (who announced her exploratory committee on January 15)
- Sen. Elizabeth Warren (who announced her exploratory committee on December 31)
- Former San Antonio Mayor and HUD Secretary Julian Castro (who formally announced his decision on January 12)
- Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (who announced her decision to run on January 11)
- Former Maryland Congressman John Delaney (who announced his presidential bid back on July 28, 2017!!!!)
- South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg (who announced his exploratory committee on January 23)

The other potential candidates we're watching (in no particular order)

- Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt.
- Former Rep. Beto O'Rourke, D-Texas
- Former VP Joe Biden
- Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J.
- Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio
- Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn.
- Former NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg

- Montana Gov. Steve Bullock
- Washington Gov. Jay Inslee
- Former Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe
- Former New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu
- Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore.
- Outgoing Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper
- Sen. Michael Bennet, D-Colo.
- Rep. Eric Swalwell, D-Calif.

Possible 2020 Dems who have declined to run (5):

- Former Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick
- Attorney Michael Avenatti
- Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley
- Tom Steyer
- Current Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti

## **Huffington Post**

### **Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Says He Will Not Run For President In 2020**

By: Sanjana Karanth

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** announced Tuesday that he will not run for president, knocking down months of speculation he'd be the latest Democrat to join the 2020 race.

"I have decided not to throw my hat into the ring to run for president in 2020," he said at a news conference outside Los Angeles City Hall. "This was not an easy decision, given the extraordinary times that we live in." However, he added, "I realized that this is what I'm meant to do."

Garcetti has served as the 42nd mayor of Los Angeles since 2013, when he replaced Antonio Villaraigosa. The politician — whose father, Gil, served as the city's district attorney during the O.J. Simpson murder trial — has described himself as "just your average Mexican-American-Jewish-Italian."

The announcement comes on the heels of a massive Los Angeles Unified School District teachers strike. About 30,000 L.A. teachers protested after 20 months of failed negotiations for higher pay, greater school funding and more support staff. It ended on Jan. 22 after six days with concessions on key issues including smaller class sizes and more nurses and counselors. Garcetti called the agreement, which he helped broker, "historic."

Since the 2016 elections, Garcetti has been vocal about his opposition to the policies of President Donald Trump's administration. He was among the U.S. mayors who boycotted a White House meeting in January 2018 amid the Justice Department's threats directed at "sanctuary cities."

Last year, the Trump administration filed a lawsuit against the state of California over its laws meant to protect undocumented immigrants.

He was also among the handful of U.S. mayors and governors to stick with the Paris agreement to combat global climate change after Trump pulled the U.S. out of the accord.

The L.A. mayor first raised speculation over a potential presidential bid when he toured a handful of primary swing states. He visited South Carolina, New Hampshire and Iowa.

His out-of-state travels raised eyebrows, with some constituents calling on the mayor to focus on issues related to the city rather than campaign across the country. Some Angelenos held a "Quit campaigning and fix LA" protest outside City Hall in October.

However, the issue of homelessness has proved to be one of Garcetti's biggest challenges as mayor. While Garcetti was speaking at the University of Southern California in December, a handful of demonstrators began "shouting at him and criticizing his approach to the city's homelessness crisis," the Los Angeles Times reported.

Protesters reportedly changed the lyrics of "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town" to: "You better watch out, you better not cry, Eric Garcetti is telling us lies, human rights violations happening now."

Though Garcetti isn't entering the field, the pool of 2020 Democratic presidential candidates continues to grow.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren (Mass.) was the first major Democratic figure to consider the race by creating an exploratory committee in late December. Others, including former Obama-era Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julian

Castro, Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (Hawaii), Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (N.Y.), and Sen. Kamala Harris (Calif.) have followed suit.

Several other high-profile Democrats are also being touted as potential presidential candidates, including Sens. Cory Booker (N.J.) and Amy Klobuchar (Minn.). Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown, who announced he will be doing a listening tour in early 2020 primary states, is also being floated as a contender.

## **The Guardian**

### **Los Angeles mayor announces he will not run for president in 2020**

By: David Smith

**Eric Garcetti**, the mayor of Los Angeles, has ended months of speculation by announcing that he will not run for the US presidency in 2020.

Garcetti joins a select group, including the lawyer Michael Avenatti, the businessman Tom Steyer, and the former Massachusetts governor Deval Patrick, who were rumoured to be in the race for the Democratic nomination, only to step back.

"I have decided not to throw my hat into the ring to run for president in 2020," the mayor told reporters on Tuesday outside Los Angeles city hall. "This was not an easy decision, given the extraordinary times that we live in."

But explaining his decision to remain in his current job, the 57-year-old added: "I realised that this is what I am meant to do and this is where I want to be."

The announcement came days after Garcetti helped negotiate an end to a teachers' strike in Los Angeles public schools.

It may represent good news for Senator Kamala Harris of California, who could have faced competition from Garcetti for the state's donors and in the California primary, planned for March 2020. Ted Lieu, a congressman from California, endorsed Harris this week.

Whispers of a Garcetti run intensified last year when he campaigned and raised money for Democratic candidates and state parties around the country in the midterm elections. His \$2.5m-plus in party fundraising included \$100,000 each for the state parties in Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina – which happen to be the first four nominating states in the Democratic primary.

But Garcetti would have faced significant hurdles on the way to the White House. No mayor has ever won a major party's presidential nomination. At rallies, Republican leaders have increasingly whipped up hostility towards California liberals in general and Hollywood in particular. They would have been likely to accuse Garcetti of presiding over a homelessness crisis in Los Angeles.

The Los Angeles Times also noted: "Garcetti's decision also followed disclosure of a search warrant seeking email and other records that involve two of his appointees for an FBI investigation of possible bribery, extortion and money laundering at City Hall. Authorities have not charged anyone with a crime, and no one has accused Garcetti of wrongdoing."

The Democratic field remains crowded despite Garcetti's absence. Senators Harris, Kirsten Gillibrand of New York and Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts have all entered the race, along with Congressman John Delaney of Maryland, Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii, Mayor Pete Buttigieg of South Bend, Indiana, and the tech entrepreneur Andrew Yang. Many more candidates are expected to join.

## **CNBC**

### **LA Mayor Eric Garcetti ends months of speculation, decides against 2020 Democratic presidential run**

By: Jeff Daniels

LOS ANGELES — Two-term Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** ended months of speculation Tuesday evening about his 2020 intentions by announcing he won't enter the ever-growing field of Democratic presidential candidates.

Garcetti, 47, had openly acknowledged he was considering a presidential run and over the past year had visited several early primary states, including New Hampshire, Iowa and South Carolina. He also formed a political action committee that raised more than \$2 million last year to help flip congressional seats in several states.

"I've decided not to throw my hat into the ring for president in 2020," Garcetti said during a press conference at City Hall. "This was not an easy decision given the extraordinary times that we live in."

"We look to a government that would be kind and caring. But today we see one that is corrupt and cruel. Worst of all, they can't seem to get anything done."-Eric Garcetti, mayor, Los Angeles

Added Garcetti, "As an American, like so many of us, we look to Washington for our better angels. We look to a government that would be kind and caring. But today we see one that is corrupt and cruel. Worst of all, they can't seem to get anything done."

Garcetti's decision to not run in 2020 follows Democratic Sen. Kamala Harris of California jumping into the contest for the White House on Jan. 21. Other Democrats have also entered the race for the party's presidential nomination, including Sens. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Kirsten Gillibrand of New York.

The field also includes Pete Buttigieg, mayor of South Bend, Indiana. Billionaire and former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg is considering entering the race. Another contender is Julian Castro, a former mayor of San Antonio who served in the Obama administration as secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

"I feel even more secure in my decision watching the field of candidates who are jumping into the race in 2020," Garcetti said. He called them "friends, colleagues, even fellow mayors."

As mayor of the nation's second biggest city, Garcetti has been credited with reducing business taxes, lifting the city's minimum wage to \$15 per hour, and pushing for a major expansion of public transportation. But critics complain that he hasn't done more to alleviate the city's affordable housing and homelessness crisis.

One recent achievement was the mayor this month mediating a resolution to the LA teachers strike.

Garcetti has been mayor of the city since 2013 and was reelected to his second term in 2017 by a wide margin. Prior to that, he served on the LA City Council. His second mayoral term runs until 2022.

## **Business Insider**

### **Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti says he's not running for president in the 2020 election**

By: Mariana Alfaro and Bryan Logan

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said he is not running for president in the 2020 election.

"This is not an easy decision given the extraordinary times that we live in," Garcetti, the youngest mayor in LA history, said on Tuesday.

He made the announcement from Los Angeles City Hall, squashing rumors that have circulated for several months after he began traveling to key primary states and raising money for the Democratic Party.

"Over the last year, I have traveled across America and witnessed an America awakening in small towns and big cities across our nation," Garcetti said. "I've seen cities and local leaders reinventing American manufacturing, cutting opioid deaths in half, and bringing 100% renewable energy to their towns. I saw a vision of a brighter future and a better day."

"What I saw is such a contrast to what we see coming out of Washington every day. Reflecting on my travels and recognizing the incredible opportunity I have every day as an American mayor, I realized that this is what I am meant to do. This is where I want to be," Garcetti said. "I am so excited to finish the work that we have begun here in Los Angeles."

Garcetti, 47, was born in LA and raised in Encino, California. He is LA's first Jewish mayor, its second consecutive Mexican-American mayor, and the youngest person in LA history to hold that office. He received a Bachelor of Arts from Columbia University in 1992 and a master's degree in international affairs in 1993.

He met his wife, Amy Wakeland, at Oxford University when they were both Rhodes scholars. Garcetti also holds a Ph.D. in ethnicity and nationalism from the London School of Economics. He has one daughter with Wakeland.

Garcetti has previously said a presidential run would not distract him from his responsibilities as mayor, telling the Los Angeles Times, "One thing doesn't affect the other."

Since then, the 2020 Democratic field has grown exponentially, and another California politician, Sen. Kamala Harris, has dominated the 2020 spotlight in the days since she announced her candidacy.

Garcetti made headlines in 2014 for announcing that the Los Angeles Police Department would no longer detain undocumented people with no judicial review.

That same year, Garcetti, along with Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter and Houston Mayor Annise Parker, cofounded the Mayors National Climate Action Agenda, which seeks to uphold the emissions goals of the Paris climate agreement and opposes the Trump administration's efforts to withdraw from the pact.

As the mayor of LA, Garcetti hasn't held back from criticizing Trump and his administration. During the 2016 presidential campaign, Garcetti called Trump the "ultimate caricature," saying he is racist, bigoted, and sexist during a conference call with reporters.

## **CBS Los Angeles**

### **LA Mayor Eric Garcetti Announces He Will Not Run For President In 2020**

LOS ANGELES (CBSLA) — After more than a year of speculation and travels to political hotspots across the country, Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** announced Tuesday he has decided against a bid for the presidency in 2020.

"Reflecting on those travels and recognizing the incredible opportunity I have every single day as mayor of this great town, I realize this is what I am meant to do," Garcetti said at a City Hall news conference. "This is where I want to be and this is a place where we have so much exciting work to finish. I've also realized in my thinking that I'm kind of old-fashioned. It may be out of vogue today, but I kind of believe that whenever possible, you should finish the job that you set out to do."

His family, who lives in L.A., also factored into his decision to not run, he said.

"This was not an easy decision given the extraordinary times we live in," he said. "As an American, like so many of us, we look to Washington for our better angels. We look to a government that would be kind and caring, but today we see one that is corrupt and cruel. Worst of all, they can't seem to get anything done."

"... You can't make anything great if it doesn't even work, and we all need to make America work again," he said in another jab at President Donald Trump. "And you can count on me in that fight always. I'm so proud to be mayor of this city, the City of Angels, 4 million souls who have entrusted in me the leadership of this city of tomorrow. It embodies an America where we all belong."

Garcetti was reelected to a second term in 2017 in a landslide and has been openly exploring a potential presidential run ever since through a number of political trips, including visits to Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina. But with a likely Democratic field that political experts estimate will reach more than 20 contenders, Garcetti chose to stay at City Hall for the time being.

He said he was encouraged by Democrats who have already thrown their hats into the ring, which includes Kamala Harris, Julian Castro, Tulsi Gabbard, Kirsten Gillibrand and Elizabeth Warren.

"Each of them share my belief in a more United States of America," he said. "And they can count on me to be with them every step of that fight to take our country back."

Until as recently as last week, Garcetti acknowledged to reporters he was still thinking of running.

"I think we have a TV reality star as president. We had our first African-American president," Garcetti told CBS News on Thursday when asked about the potential of being the first mayor to jump right into the White House. "The time for obviously trying new things – in both positive and sometimes negative ways – is upon us. I don't think it's about your resume anymore."

"The time for obviously trying new things – in both positive and sometimes negative ways – is upon us. I don't think it's about your resume anymore."

During the time he has explored a run, Garcetti has not gained much traction outside of some media profiles. A CNN poll in October had him pulling 2 percent of support out of a list of 16 potential candidates, including former Vice President Joe Biden, who led the poll with 33 percent support.

Garcetti's announcement comes on the heels of several other high-profile candidates who announced officially they were running, including Harris, who drew an estimated 20,000 people to a rally in Oakland on Sunday. But Garcetti denied that Harris' candidacy scared him off from running.

"I wouldn't have run for mayor if it was about being an underdog, or who else is in the race. You've really got to listen to your own heart," he said.

When asked if he was pledging to serve out his full second term through 2022, Garcetti said, "No, no. I'm pledging to be mayor. I mean, you never know, but I do think that in four years, a lot can happen."

City Councilman Gil Cedillo told City News Service he has been encouraging Garcetti to seek the presidency.

"Obviously, I'm a big supporter of the mayor, and I'm positive he'd be a great president," Cedillo said. "But we're very

fortunate to have him here.”

Garcetti, 47, comes from a politically connected family, as his father, Gil Garcetti, is a former Los Angeles County district attorney perhaps most famous for overseeing the failed prosecution of O.J. Simpson’s double-murder case in the mid-1990s.

Garcetti grew up in the San Fernando Valley as the son of a Jewish mother and a father of Mexican and Italian descent. He speaks often of his Mexican roots and is fluent in Spanish, frequently dedicating a portion of his news conferences to speaking Spanish.

Garcetti earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Columbia University before becoming a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University. He taught international affairs at both the University of Southern California and Occidental College before winning a seat on the City Council in 2001, representing the 13th District, which includes parts of Hollywood.

Garcetti was elected by the 15-member City Council to serve as its president four times, and he earned a reputation as a calm, level-headed politician who works to find common ground and avoid political infighting.

In 2013, Garcetti beat out fellow Democrat Wendy Greuel to become the city’s first mayor of Jewish descent.

As mayor, Garcetti has overseen a rising budget due to a strong local and national economy while putting an emphasis on environmental initiatives, programs to help the homeless, and traffic safety. In 2015, he backed a plan to raise the city’s minimum wage to \$15 by 2020.

Garcetti rarely if ever openly criticizes the City Council, preferring to project himself as a consensus builder, and typically will chose to avoid any direct challenges to other city leaders, either in his speeches or when asked direct questions by reporters.

Politico, in a 2017 story highlighting his possible run for the presidency, wrote that Garcetti “has a wry air, smiles in a way that he tries to make out as self-deprecating but deploys for its charm. He doesn’t so much light up the room as coolly calm it down.”

Garcetti and his wife, Amy Wakeland, have one adopted daughter, Maya, and have also been foster parents.

### **ABC Los Angeles Garcetti announces he's not running for president**

LOS ANGELES (KABC) -- Mayor **Eric Garcetti** announced Tuesday he is not running for president in 2020.

At a City Hall news conference, Garcetti said he wants to continue to focus on Los Angeles issues.

"I realize that this is what I am meant to do, this is where I want to be," Garcetti said. "And this is a place where we have so much exciting work to finish."

The 47-year-old mayor had toyed with the idea of launching a 2020 campaign, and has made political visits to key states such as Iowa and South Carolina.

He spent the early part of January involved in helping mediate the Los Angeles teachers strike, but once that was resolved, he was expected to turn his attention to his political future.

The Democratic field is already starting to get crowded. Among candidates who have announced or are considering a run are California Sen. Kamala Harris, Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and former Vice President Joe Biden.

Garcetti said he feels secure in the future and the ability for Democrats to "take back" the country in 2020 as he watches the field of candidates grow. Many of them, he said, are people he knows and has faith in.

"They can count on me to be with them every step of that fight to take our country back."

Garcetti said he is proud of the things he has accomplished in LA and wants to continue to work on them. As examples, he cited reducing crime, winning bid for the Olympics and tripling the number of jobs for youths.

"The two things I love the most, my family and my city, are right here in LA," Garcetti said.

Garcetti also took a few swipes at the current occupant of the White House.

When asked if he thinks a third-party candidate businessman, like former Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz, without

political experience should enter the race, he said individuals should run for other offices first to get the experience.

"President is not a starter job in politics," Garcetti said. "If we need evidence of that just go to 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

Whoever holds the office, he said, needs to learn the rules and basics of governing first.

"Donald Trump says he's going to drain the swamp. Which is unfair to swamps. It's never been swampier. How many people have been arrested, how many will be indicted before we realize we were sold a bill of goods?"

## **Fox Los Angeles**

### **Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti not running for president**

By: Oscar Flores

LOS ANGELES, Calif. (FOX 11) - Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** called a late-afternoon press conference Tuesday where he's expected to announce that he will not seek the presidency of the United States in 2020.

The media publication Politico cited three unnamed sources each reporting that Garcetti has chosen not to run for President despite mulling a possible presidential bid over the past year.

Garcetti will be speaking with reporters at City Hall at 5 p.m.

Garcetti was re-elected to a second mayorship in 2017 in a landslide and has been exploring a potential presidential run, but with a crowded field of Democratic contenders vying for the highest seat in the land, it appears Garcetti will decide to stay at City Hall for the time being.

Last week, Garcetti acknowledged to reporters he was thinking of running.

"I think we have a TV reality star as president. We had our first African-American president...The time for obviously trying new things -- in both positive and sometimes negative ways -- is upon us. I don't think it's about your resume anymore," said Garcetti when asked about the potential of being the first mayor to jump right into the White House.

## **La Opinion**

### **Mayor of Los Angeles will not seek the presidency of the United States**

By: Araceli Martinez Ortega

The mayor of Los Angeles, **Eric Garcetti**, announced that he will not seek to be a candidate for the presidency of the United States.

At a press conference in his offices in the City of Los Angeles, the mayor mentioned that after analyzing the decision with his family, he has decided to continue focusing on the problems of the city.

"Reflecting on the trips I've made last year throughout the country, I recognized the incredible opportunity I have as mayor of this city every day. I realized that this is where I have and want to be, it is a place where there is a lot of exciting work to do," he said.

"I also realized that I am venerated to antiquity, and that as soon as possible we must finish the work for which they chose us," he said.

He also explained that the two things he loves the most, "my family and my city are here in Los Angeles. And I decided not to put on my hat and get in the ring to seek the presidency in 2020," he said, surrounded by a group of friends.

He admitted that renouncing his aspirations to be a candidate for the US presidency was not an easy decision given "the extraordinary times we live and that nothing can be achieved in Washington as was seen with the longest partial closure of government in history" .

He made it clear that he is sure that the Democrats can regain the presidency, and that several of the aspirants are his friends.

On whether he will seek to be president of the United States later, he said, "who knows what the future holds for us". However, he said he was sure that mayors can be good presidents of the United States.

Will you end your term as mayor or could you seek another position?

"I am committing myself to be mayor," he said.



With the announcement, almost two years of speculation about whether to launch for the presidency of the country.

Garcetti had traveled all over the country looking at key states in the presidential campaign and raising money for his possible participation in the primary elections where the Democrats will elect anyone they consider could unseat Donald Trump in 2020. In 2017, the mayor created an organization Not-for-profit mayors to work with union and business leaders in raising funds to invest in cities around the country, which gave him the opportunity to travel, while meditating whether he would launch for the presidency of the United States.

Garcetti, 47, fourth generation Mexican-Italian and Jewish, has been mayor of Los Angeles since 2013.

In an interview with La Opinión in December, he had declared that it was time for a mayor to enter the campaign for the presidency.

"We want local leaders, people who are parents and neighbors. This is America. (United States)," he said.

But he had also said that it would be in January when he would make a final decision in the company of his family, his wife and his daughter, and after listening to his heart.

He revealed that his interest in participating in the campaign for the presidency in which President Trump will seek re-election, is based on the imprudence with which the president has managed and because he considers it dangerous for the country and immigrant families.

### **Telemundo**

#### **Garcetti will not run for president in 2020**

The mayor of Los Angeles, **Eric Garcetti**, will not seek the Democratic presidential nomination in 2020, which will lightly fan a field that is probably still large and difficult to handle for a party desperate to overthrow President Donald Trump.

"I decided not to run for president in 2020," the mayor said Tuesday at the Los Angeles city hall, ending months of speculation about his political future. His decision came days after he helped negotiate the end of a teachers' strike in Los Angeles' public schools.

The 47-year-old mayor sounded like a presidential candidate as recently as last week, using a national conspiracy of his fellow mayors to destroy Trump and a hyper-partisan Congress in a speech a few blocks from the White House. National politicians, he said, divide the nation into "red and blue states" when the royal division, he argued, "is Washington and the rest of us."

After that address, he received all the attention while the national media gathered asked him questions about whether he would join his compatriot, Sen. Kamala Harris, in the Democratic presidential camp of 2020.

But on Tuesday, Garcetti said that Los Angeles "is where I want to be and this is a place where we have a lot of work to finish".

"I think that when possible, you should finish the job that you proposed," he added. And, finally, I also know that the two things I love the most, my family and my city, are right here in Los Angeles. "

While the presidential camp is likely to grow, the departure of Garcetti could help Harris consolidate the considerable donor pool for the state. It also means that you will not have a native who competes for votes in the California primary, which is planned for early March 2020 along with a group of southern states.

Garcetti raised his profile in 2018 by campaigning and raising funds for Democratic candidates and state parties throughout the country. Its more than 2.5 million dollars in party fundraising included \$ 100,000 each for the state parties in each of the first four presidential nominees states of Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina. He made stops in several of those states and in other battlefields like Ohio.

By emphasizing his argument that the greatest political progress in the United States occurs at the local level, Garcetti often promoted the \$ 120 billion infrastructure initiative that Los Angeles voters approved during his tenure as a contrast to the years of conversations about infrastructure in the Capitol, without a long-term national plan. He pointed out that the management of parks, police and potholes is not a partisan exercise.

Even retiring, Garcetti could remain a key figure for the party, eventually being a substitute for the candidate or perhaps a candidate for vice president. You could also position yourself for a position in the Cabinet, particularly the Secretary of Transportation or Housing and Urban Development, if a Democrat ultimately prevails.

Garcetti's external tone echoed that of other mayors and governors who have considered joining a campaign currently

dominated by senators, including Harris, Kirsten Gillibrand of New York and Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts. Other notable figures from Washington, including New Jersey Senator Cory Booker, Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders and former Vice President Joe Biden, could join soon.

Mayors face many historical and practical barriers in trying to achieve national ambitions.

No mayor has ever won the presidential nomination of a major party and even with the growing urbanization of the electorate, voters in small, rural cities still look skeptically at the nation's largest cities, particularly those along the coast.

Garcetti jokingly recognized those cultural gaps in some of his political trips, sometimes reminding the overwhelmingly white audiences of his Mexican-Jewish-Italian roots and calling himself a "kosher burrito."

As to whether the mayors are qualified for the Oval Office, Garcetti said that the population of his city, more than 4 million, exceeds that of more than 20 states in the United States.

The former mayor of the city of New York, Michael Bloomberg, is still weighing a career, although he may be known as much as a billionaire businessman, a philanthropist and a political financier, since he is a politician of the big cities.

The current mayor of New York, Bill de Blasio, has not ruled out an offer. The former mayor of New Orleans, Mitch Landrieu, is mentioned as a potential candidate, although he has not made the recent moves of someone who is positioning himself for a career.

## **Variety**

### **L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti Won't Run for President in 2020**

By: Ted Johnson

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said that he will not run for president in 2020, telling reporters gathered at City Hall that his current job "is what I am meant to do. This is where I want to be."

Garcetti would have been a longshot for the Democratic nomination, but he had been positioning himself as an alternative in the presidential field who would emphasize his experience running a major city.

But he said that he decided in his own mind several weeks ago not to run but came to a final decision on Tuesday morning. The Los Angeles teachers' strike "was a kick in the pants for me," he said, referring to the walkout that ended last week. He played a role in helping both sides reach a settlement.

"There's a sadness about this moment, but not much," he said of his decision, adding that he had a new "sense of excitement" about his job and "this is what I am called to do."

He also cited family reasons. He and his wife, Amy Wakeland, have a seven-year-old daughter.

If he had run, Garcetti would have been one of two Californians in the race. Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) launched her campaign last week, and has quickly built name recognition and established herself among top tier contenders. She appeared at a CNN town hall on Monday that drew almost 2 million viewers.

Garcetti said Harris's successful launch of her campaign did not play a factor in his decision, adding that it was necessary for a candidate to "have it in your heart" to run. He likely would have had to have immediately plunged into a frenetic pace of fundraising and spend a great deal of time in early states like Iowa, Nevada, New Hampshire and South Carolina. He said that at the press conference that his daughter suggested that perhaps he could run when she was older, like at the age of 14.

"This is where I am meant to be," Garcetti said at his press conference from Los Angeles City Hall.

While he touted the city's accomplishments under his watch, including winning the bid to hold the Olympics in 2028, Garcetti also continues to grapple with rampant homelessness and worsening traffic. Even in announcing that he would not run, he made the case that mayors would make for good presidents because they are "on the front line" in trying to address such problems.

Garcetti, 47, had been laying the groundwork for a presidential bid over the past year, giving speeches in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina, and forming a political action committee that raised money for state-level candidates in the midterms. An event in September, featuring Jimmy Kimmel and DJ Khaled, raised \$1.5 million.

He also had been stepping up his appearances in national media, with guest spots on Kimmel's show as well as "Late Night with Seth Meyers." He was in Washington just last week, addressing the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and contrasted the ability to settle the teacher's strike with the lingering government shutdown.

Garcetti was elected mayor of Los Angeles in 2013 and reelected overwhelmingly in 2017. Because the city changed its election cycle, he still has another four years left on his term.

"It may be out of vogue today, but I kind of believe that whenever possible you should finish the job that you set out to do," Garcetti said.

Garcetti did not say when or if he would endorse one of the 2020 candidates, but that could be a significant "get" for a campaign. Mathew Littman, a Los Angeles-based political consultant, said that Garcetti had established a "very good reputation" nationally and will still be a leader in the Democratic party. Had he entered the race, he would have had to establish himself against a field that may include other mayors, such as South Bend, Indiana Mayor Pete Buttigieg. And in California, he said, "Kamala stands to soak up a lot of the oxygen."

## **Hollywood Reporter**

### **L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti Says He Won't Run for President**

By: Peter Kiefer

*The Democratic primary is expected to be a crowded field.*

Ending more than a year of speculation regarding his White House ambitions, Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said he will not be mounting a presidential bid in 2020.

"You should finish the job you set out to do. I've decided not to throw my hat in the ring to run for president in 2020," said the 47-year-old Garcetti, speaking at a hastily organized press conference at City Hall on Tuesday evening. "I realized that this is what I am meant to do. There is where I want to be. And this is where we have so much exciting work to finish," he added.

Garcetti, who was re-elected to a second five-year term as mayor last year in a landslide victory, did not, however, rule out a future run for the White House.

"Garcetti 2040 — I'd like to say that right now," the mayor joked.

Analyzing the Garcetti presidential tea leaves has been a favorite parlor game for local press and political analysts over the past 18 months. As far back as December 2017, Garcetti had suggested that he was considering a presidential run, telling a Univision reporter: "I am thinking about this." Since then, all indications have been that he was preparing a campaign to win a spot on the Democratic ticket. In 2018, he hopscotched around early voting states like Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina meeting with elected officials and party leaders, and he upped his national profile by emerging as one of the more vocal critics of President Donald Trump and his administration's policies. Garcetti also played an integral role in the midterm elections, helping raise millions of dollars for candidates in a variety of battleground states.

But several forces have been working against a theoretical Garcetti presidential bid from the get-go. The first is that no former L.A. mayor has been able to carve out a national profile after serving at City Hall. In fact, no mayor has run for the presidency since New York City Mayor John Lindsay ran in 1972. Also stealing some of Garcetti's potential thunder was the entry of Senator and former California Attorney General Kamala Harris, who drew a crowd of more than 20,000 people at her candidacy kickoff event in Oakland earlier this week. In addition to being from California, both Garcetti — a half-Jewish and half-Mexican Rhodes scholar and Navy intelligence reservist — and Harris have invited comparisons to former President Barack Obama.

At his press conference, Garcetti said that he was excited for Harris' campaign and that she's been a longtime friend, but added that her candidacy had no bearing on his decision not to run. When asked whether he would consider a vice presidential bid, Garcetti said that he "has a better job than that."

The Democratic primary is expected to be a crowded field. In addition to Harris, Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren has also announced she will be running. Other potential candidates include former Vice President Joe Biden, New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, former Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick, former Texas congressman Beto O'Rourke and Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown.

In November, a "ready for Garcetti" effort to enlist the L.A. mayor in the presidential race got underway. According to a City Hall source, he had been vetting candidates to help run his communications team, putting them through multiple rounds of interviews. The source said that Garcetti had kept his cards extremely close to his vest in recent days but ultimately decided that he "wasn't ready to be president."

## **Curbed LA**

### **Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti will not run for president in 2020**

By: Jenna Chandler, Elijah Chiland, and Alissa Walker

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** announced this evening that he will not run for president in 2020, laying to rest months of speculation from curious political correspondents, supportive Democratic leaders, and uneasy Angelenos.

"I'm so proud to be mayor of this city... this city of tomorrow," he said, speaking to reporters at City Hall in Downtown. "The two things I love the most, my family and my city, are right here in LA."

Garcetti said he wants to complete his term as mayor, and emphasized his renewed belief in the power of cities to move the country toward "a brighter future and a better day."

"Call me old fashioned," he said. "Whenever possible you should finish the job you set out to do."

Rumors have swirled for more than a year that Garcetti, who has positioned himself as "the anti-Trump," might try to become the first mayor in U.S. history to ascend directly to the presidency.

The announcement comes on the heels of his role mediating an end to a six-day teachers' strike at Los Angeles Unified School District, the second largest school district in the nation. That "cleared the way," the Los Angeles Daily News reported last week, for Garcetti "to embark on a national campaign without being accused of ignoring a crisis at home."

Garcetti said the strike influenced his decision, describing it as a "little bit of a kick in the pants for me."

His candidacy would have also shone a spotlight on some of Los Angeles's most prominent shortcomings: the largest unsheltered homeless population in the nation; the worst traffic in the U.S.; and some of the highest poverty rates in the country, thanks to a worsening affordable housing shortage.

Garcetti, a Democrat who speaks fluent Spanish, will turn 48 on Monday. He has never served in a political office outside of Los Angeles, a city with a population of about 4 million. Vox has described him as a "charismatic Rhodes scholar" who "weaves into ongoing debates more skillfully than any politician since Barack Obama."

According to GQ, in 2010, when Garcetti was a member of the Los Angeles City Council, Obama offered Garcetti a job in the Oval Office as his "urban czar."

But Garcetti aspired to be LA's mayor. In 2013, amid historically low voter turnout—only 23 percent of voters cast ballots citywide—he was elected with 54 percent of the vote. Prior to that, he had served on the City Council since 2001.

One of the most biggest initiatives of his first term was leading the push for a gradual increase in the minimum wage citywide. In 2015, he signed a law mandating that businesses pay their employees \$15 per hour by 2020.

Garcetti was reelected two years ago in "one of the biggest landslides in the city's history." (Though turnout, once again, was low.)

During his second term, Garcetti gained national prominence among Democratic leaders. He currently serves as the president of the "Climate Mayors," a coalition that has pledged to align with the Paris climate accord after the U.S. backed out of the agreement.

Speculation that Garcetti might run for president swirled as the mayor traveled around the country, visiting key primary states such as New Hampshire and Iowa. According to the Los Angeles Times, Garcetti spent 112 days outside California over a 12-month period in 2016 and 2017.

Sarcastic fliers and a website admonishing the mayor for spending so much time away have cropped up, asking: "Where is Mayor Eric Garcetti?"

In touring the country, Garcetti said today that he observed the "awakening" of cities, from those reinventing American manufacturing to those battling opioid epidemics, and it left him with a "tremendous amount of renewal and excitement" about his job as mayor.

A crowdfunding campaign named "Ready 4 Garcetti" had raised more than \$32,000 for a Garcetti campaign, should it have materialized. The Twitter account associated with the campaign has been suspended, but the Facebook page, which has 720 "likes," is still live.

Garcetti can be credited for luring several high-profile projects to the city during his mayorship, bringing the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art to Exposition Park, successfully bidding for the 2028 Olympics, and lending support to flashy proposals like Elon Musk's test tunnel to Dodger Stadium.

He touted today other ambitious projects that are already under way but will not be completed during his tenure, including the revitalization of the LA River and upgrades and improvements to LAX, including the forthcoming people mover.

But his tenure has also been marked with some ambitious initiatives that have fallen short.

In 2018, he announced the "Bridge Home" program that would build 15 temporary shelters for 1,500 homeless residents across the city within a year. Several neighborhoods have pushed back vehemently against the shelters, and almost one year later, one 45-bed shelter has been built.

In addition, warrants served over the past few months as part of an FBI corruption probe of a Los Angeles City Councilmember named Garcetti's former deputy mayor Ray Chan and Joel Jacinto, a Garcetti appointee to the Board of Public Works. Jacinto resigned earlier this month.

With Garcetti out of the running, the door is open for another U.S. mayor to become president. In recent weeks, Pete Buttigieg, mayor of South Bend, Indiana, and Julián Castro, former mayor of San Antonio, Texas and Housing and Urban Development Secretary under Obama, have both announced they're running.

On a recent trip to Washington D.C. for a mayoral conference, Garcetti spoke about the teachers' strike, tweeting that mayors could have ended the recent federal government shutdown "in a matter of hours," using the hashtag #MayorsGetThingsDone.

Earlier today, Garcetti tweeted a Los Angeles Times story about mediating the teacher's strike with the line: "I did what mayors do."

## **The Week**

### **Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti won't run for president in 2020**

By: Catherine Garcia

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** ended months of speculation on Tuesday evening when he announced he is not entering the 2020 presidential race.

"It was not an easy decision, considering the extraordinary times we live in," Garcetti, a Democrat, said during a press conference. "As an American, like so many of us, we look to Washington for our better angels, we look to a government that would be kind and caring, but today we see one that is corrupt and cruel. Worst of all, they can't seem to get anything done." He also said he loves the city of Los Angeles, and wants to finish what he started as mayor.

Garcetti had been toying with the idea of running for president for about two years. There are several Democrats who have already announced their campaigns, including his fellow Californian, Sen. Kamala Harris.

## **LA Taco**

### **'Are you ready for Garcetti?' ~ L.A. Mayor not running for president after all**

By: Daniel Hernandez

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** announced Tuesday that he will not be running for president after all — despite more than a year of his friends, allies, and funders floating the idea that the L.A. mayor would make a viable candidate for the White House in 2020.

A source close to Garcetti confirmed to L.A. Taco this afternoon that the second-term mayor of the second largest city will drop his bid. Previously, Politico first reported the news.

The mayor confirmed his exit from the race himself via Twitter an hour after the news broke, citing his love for the job and his excitement "to finish the work we have begun here in Los Angeles."

Garcetti had been toying with the idea in public since at least 2017, in often awkward strokes. In this exchange with Good Day LA, Garcetti said he was not raising money in the Midwest, but still "going around the country talking to folks." Watch:

His boosters even put out a "Latino Urban" track pumping up the fourth-generation L.A. native and son of former L.A. District Attorney Gil Garcetti.

Yet despite months of travel to Washington and key early primary states — and a drummed-up media narrative — Garcetti faced increasing scrutiny and criticism at home in Los Angeles for a host of problems besetting the city: homelessness, a housing crisis, traffic woes, and increasing gentrification and inequality that feed into it.

The mayor's office is also facing increased legal scrutiny after Joel Jacinto, one of his appointees on the Board of Public Works, resigned and Ray Chan, his former deputy mayor, was mentioned in an FBI warrant. Both of their names came up

in the FBI warrant looking into alleged money laundering, bribery, and kickbacks involving Councilman Jose Huizar.

The warrant also mentions L.A. City Councilman Curren Price and a senior aide to Council President Herb Wesson, painting a less than pristine image of City Hall.

No mayor in U.S. history has ever jumped from a town hall to the White House. Fellow Californian, freshman Sen. Kamala Harris, announced on Martin Luther King Jr. Day that she is running a presidential campaign for 2020.

## **The Atlantic**

### **City Hall to the White House: Can't Get There From Here**

By: Todd S. Purdam

If the mayor of South Bend, Indiana, can run for president in the already crowded 2020 Democratic field, why shouldn't the mayors of New York and Los Angeles? After all, each city is bigger and more complicated than plenty of states. But there's just one thing that Bill de Blasio, who's not ruling out a race, and **Eric Garcetti**, who just did, ought to remember about the last time the mayors of the Big Apple and the City of Angels decided they were best suited to topple a controversial Republican president: It didn't turn out so good.

The year was 1972, and Richard Nixon looked vulnerable. Mayor Sam Yorty of L.A.—a conservative Democrat known as “Travelin’ Sam” for his peripatetic publicly financed travel—had spent nearly half his time away from his city in the last half of 1971 before launching a quixotic campaign in which he sought to out-Nixon Nixon on law and order. Yorty complained that his hometown was “an experimental area for taking over of a city by a combination of bloc voting, black power, left-wing radicals, and if you please, identified communists.”

Yorty received the backing of William Loeb, the extreme right-wing publisher of the Manchester Union-Leader newspaper in New Hampshire, who thought Nixon had gone soft on Vietnam. But Yorty won just 6 percent of the vote in the New Hampshire primary, never got any traction, and dropped out of the race just before the California primary, begging voters to support Hubert Humphrey instead of the “radical” George McGovern, who would become the party's nominee.

John V. Lindsay's campaign started out with more promise. The charismatic, patrician Republican who had walked the streets of Harlem to keep the peace when other cities burned in the 60s switched his party registration in 1971 to mount a campaign that proclaimed, “While Washington's been talking about our problems, John Lindsay's been fighting them.” No less a hardened cynic than Hunter S. Thompson professed to be impressed.

“If you listen to the wizards, you will keep a careful eye on John Lindsay's action in the Florida primary,” Thompson wrote in *Fear and Loathing: On the Campaign Trail '72*. “Because if he looks good down here, and then even better in Wisconsin, the wizards say he can start looking for some very heavy company ... and that would make things very interesting.” And if nothing else, Thompson hoped, the potential presence of both Lindsay and Ted Kennedy in the race might turn that summer's Democratic Convention in Miami “into something like a weeklong orgy of sex, violence and treachery in the Bronx Zoo.”

But despite a cadre of loyal campaign aides that included a young Jeffrey Katzenberg and the speechwriter turned journalist Jeff Greenfield—and despite spending half a million dollars in Florida—Lindsay finished fifth, with just 7 percent of the vote.

“A disgruntled ex-New Yorker hired a plane to fly over Miami with a sign reading ‘LINDSAY MEANS TSURIS,’” which is Yiddish for trouble, Greenfield recalled in an email this week. The Brooklyn Democratic leader Meade Esposito, still contemptuous of the mayor's party switch, declared, “Little Sheba better come home,” a reference to the popular Broadway play in which a forlorn housewife pines in vain for her lost dog.

But Lindsay pressed on to Wisconsin, and Sam Roberts, who covered the campaign for the New York Daily News, still recalls “the mixture of hope and desperation.” Lindsay's poll numbers were in the gutter, so to build momentum, he adopted a new slogan: “The switch is on.”

“I remember naively buying into the optimism,” Roberts remembers. “I wrote a story for the Daily News that Wisconsin was not likely to be Lindsay's last primary. As the story was transcribed in New York, the word ‘not’ was dropped. When it was published, I must have seemed prescient. The switch was on all right, but to other candidates. Lindsay ran sixth. The next day, he dropped out of the race.”

The political world is different today, of course. So Mayor Pete Buttigieg of South Bend may dream of presidential glory—and his big-city counterparts, including former Mayor Michael Bloomberg of New York, can, too. But the track record is not encouraging. Remember President Rudy Giuliani? Andrew Johnson, Grover Cleveland, and Calvin Coolidge were all mayors, but all first held other higher offices before winning the White House. Maybe, Greenfield suggested, that's because the job of mayor “is seen in terms of picking up garbage and fixing the streets.” On the other hand, in Donald Trump's Washington, that might be just what America needs.

## **LA Times**

### **Mayor Eric Garcetti's hastily announced news conference sparks intrigue**

By: Dakota Smith

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** will hold a news conference at his City Hall office on Tuesday at 5 p.m., his political advisor Yusef Robb said.

Garcetti is weighing a presidential run in 2020, and the abruptly announced news event fueled speculation about whether he would announce his candidacy. But Robb would not elaborate on what the mayor would say.

Any announcement of a White House bid would probably not take place at City Hall, however. The mayor has repeatedly declined to talk about his presidential ambitions when he is in city-owned buildings, saying he doesn't want to use municipal property for anything related to a campaign.

## **LA Times**

### **L.A. approves \$120 million to encourage building faster, cheaper homeless housing**

By: Doug Smith

Wanted: Fresh ideas to speed up the construction and lower the cost of housing for homeless people — without cutting quality.

The Los Angeles City Council made that pitch formal on Tuesday, voting 14-0 to set aside \$120 million, a substantial slice of the Proposition HHH homeless housing bond, for a pilot program that will ask developers for strategies to change the way publicly subsidized housing is built.

The vote authorized Mayor **Eric Garcetti** to seek proposals for 1,000 units of supportive housing as a test of alternatives to the slow and increasingly costly method of building conventional apartments for homeless people using traditional tax-credit financing.

Backyard flats, rehabbed single-room-occupancy units, shared housing, honeycomb pre-fabs. All will be considered, though not all will necessarily be approved.

Besides being quick and cheap, winning proposals must include space and a plan backed by a homeless agency to provide services for the people who will live there.

And they can't be schlock.

"We want a program that can create high-quality projects that can demonstrate long-term financial and physical durability," Ben Winter, the mayor's chief housing officer, told members of the Proposition HHH citizen oversight committee when he unveiled the plan in December.

"We're not building them for six months of housing," he said. "These are long-term neighborhood benefits."

Garcetti has enthusiastically backed the plan, which was created last year after committee members became dissatisfied with the progress and cost of the bond program.

In addition to being an experiment in new housing types, the pilot also is a call for ways to bypass the traditional method of financing affordable and homeless supportive housing, which requires developers to assemble grants and loans from local and state programs as a foundation for highly competitive tax credits.

Only a handful of nonprofits and for-profit developers proficient in the labyrinth of tax-credit financing and capable of providing supportive services have, so far, been able to access the \$1.2 billion in bond funds provided under Proposition HHH.

Those groups had been building about 300 units of supportive housing in the city annually when voters, in effect, asked for that rate to nearly triple by approving the 2016 bond measure with a promise of 10,000 units within a decade.

The city's Housing and Community Investment Department told the City Council on Tuesday that the pace has picked up. Fifty-five projects have received conditional or final commitments for Proposition HHH funding. Collectively, those projects would produce more than 3,712 units, more than half reserved for supportive housing. Another 26 projects are under review.

So far, however, only eight of those projects are under construction, and members of the citizen committee appointed to monitor the bond program have chafed at the delays.

Even more alarming to committee members has been the rising cost. Housing construction that hovered at \$400,000 per unit before Proposition HHH is now routinely above \$550,000 per unit — a rate that would exhaust Proposition HHH funds well short of the 10,000-unit goal.

Last year, the committee, led by former Los Angeles City Administrative Officer Miguel Santana, issued increasingly dire warnings that something needed to be done to save Proposition HHH.

In the fall, it began asking developers to its meetings to propose newer, cheaper models for developing housing.

The exercise reached a defining point when the head of a company named FlyawayHomes reported that it had built a shipping container project of 33 housing units that was entirely financed by private investment and that it had started construction on a second.

FlyawayHome's founder, Lawry Meister, told the committee that she could build nearly 2,000 units in three years if the city would fund 100% of the cost in short-term loans — a radical shift from the standard practice of issuing loans that can be deferred indefinitely.

Meister said her company would repay the loans through an "exit strategy" involving social benefit investments — funds put up by people seeking a modest return for doing good deeds — or through conventional financing.

In November, the citizen oversight committee adopted an 11-point recommendation plan, including the pilot program discussed Tuesday. The recommendations also called for many city regulations to be relaxed and other incentives such as low-interest loans.

A month later, Winter reported to the committee that the mayor would propose using \$120 million — or 10% of the Proposition HHH bond — in an open-ended competition for innovative development projects.

On Tuesday, Winter told the council: "The mayor is really excited about carving out a space to really encourage the private sector in looking at alternative ways to construct and/or finance supportive housing." The mayor, he said, planned to release a request for proposals by March that would "open the box for developers."

The process will be modeled after the process devised by the Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative to vet entries in an innovation competition for \$5 million funded through the countywide Measure H homeless sales tax.

The county issued what Winter described as "an open call for the best and brightest ideas in the private sector." Winners have been chosen, but not yet announced.

FlyawayHomes said it was among the winners and has received a \$1-million award for its second project. It was unclear, however, whether the company's proposal requiring 100% HHH financing would succeed under the city's much larger pilot program.

The city's request for proposals will not hold housing projects to the current HHH subsidy limits, among them allowing public subsidies of no more than 50% of the total cost of a project. But there is a limit to how much the city can risk on projects requiring 100% funding.

## **ABC Los Angeles**

### **Parental leave: 2 LA City Council members propose policy for 100 percent paid family leave for 18 weeks**

LOS ANGELES — Two Los Angeles City Council members proposed a motion to create a parental leave policy which would allow new parents to take up to 18 weeks of fully paid leave without a reduction in pay.

Council members David Ryu and Nury Martinez introduced the policy at Tuesday's Los Angeles City Council meeting.

The council members said the state law allows for up to 18 weeks of paid family leave but only provides eligible employees with 60 to 70 percent of their wages up to a state maximum.

The proposed city program would seek to augment the state's contribution via the existing State Disability Insurance and Paid Parental Leave programs to cover 100 percent of wages.

"We know in Los Angeles, 60 to 70 percent of your pay is not enough to pay the bills, let alone to start a family," Ryu said at a news conference at City Hall.

The program would be paid by the employers, but could create an exemption or risk pool for small businesses and nonprofits, the council members said.



"By providing a full, paid parental leave, we are going to empower Los Angeles' hard-working mothers and fathers to be outstanding parents without fear that they are going to lose their job or lose a paycheck," Martinez said.

Gov. Gavin Newsom has proposed a six-month paid family leave policy, but the idea is still in the early stages and the governor is forming a task force on the topic.

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said he supports the proposal, thanking the two councilmembers for "leading the way...to make paid parental leave a reality for Angelenos."

*Also covered by: [Northridge-Chatsworth Patch](#)*

## **LA Daily News**

### **Crime is down in Los Angeles, but some West L.A. neighborhoods experienced waves of property crimes**

By: Josh Cain

The crime rate in Los Angeles fell last year for the first time in five years, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and Police Chief Michel Moore said, and the city recorded its second-fewest number of homicides since the 1960s.

There were 259 homicides in the city in 2018, according to crime data the Los Angeles Police Department released this month. That's down from 282 in 2017. The only other time in the last 50 years that L.A. had fewer than 260 homicides was in 2014, when there were 251 killings.

Garcetti and Moore touted that number at LAPD's headquarters on Monday while presenting other rosy figures showing crime declines citywide.

All crimes were down 2.4 percent from 2017, according to the data. Violent crimes fell even more, dropping 4.5 percent.

And LAPD showed a slight decline in property crimes, down 1.8 percent.

"This was a good year for our city and a good year for our police department," Garcetti said.

The downward trend in Los Angeles mirrored reductions in other large cities in 2018 — violent crimes fell in Oakland, San Francisco and Long Beach, while all crimes increased in San Jose.

The mayor and police chief attributed some of the decline in Los Angeles to increased enforcement and other strategies.

Last year, about 400 police officers were reassigned from desk jobs and specialized units to street patrol. And an additional 200 reassignments are coming soon, Moore said.

Garcetti also credited two programs targeting neighborhoods vulnerable to gang violence — the Gang Reduction and Youth Development program and a handful of Community Safety Partnerships — with helping reduce the number of killings.

More than half of the homicides in the city in 2018 were gang-related, according to the LAPD figures. The total number of gang killings last year fell by one-fifth from the year before.

Garcetti said the city will set up CSP sites in more neighborhoods this year, including one at the San Fernando Gardens housing complex in Pacoima.

While Los Angeles saw far fewer homicides and halted rising crime after four straight years of increases, the city still had more violent crimes in 2018 than it did about a decade ago.

Critics have blamed a series of voter-approved sentencing reform laws — including Proposition 47 — for the rise in crime at around the same time that they were passed.

Passed in 2014, Prop. 47 reduced low-level drug and property crimes from felonies to misdemeanors. Law enforcement officials have complained that the law took away their ability to get petty thieves and drug users off the streets. But researchers have said that a rise in either violent or property crimes could not be attributed to the law.

And even after four years of rising crime, the city still had a far lower crime rate than it did almost 30 years ago — since 1992, the number of crimes in L.A. has fallen by more than 60 percent.

"This is one of the safest times to live in Los Angeles in all of our history," Moore said.

Officials on Monday did not break off figures showing steep crime increases in some neighborhoods, including parts of West Los Angeles where property crimes jumped.

In the Pacific Division, which includes communities like Venice, Mar Vista, Westchester and Playa del Rey, all crimes increased by just over 11 percent.

Moore said most of that increase could be attributed to jumps in reports of “crimes of opportunity” — such as thefts of items left out in the open in cars — “spats of gang violence and a sudden surge in street robberies” in the area.

But some areas of the San Fernando Valley saw reductions in crime that far outpaced other communities.

In the Devonshire Division, which includes Chatsworth, Northridge, Canoga Park, Granada Hills and Winnetka, all crime fell by about 11.5 percent. Crimes reported in the Mission Division, which covers Arleta, Mission Hills, North Hills, Panorama City and Sylmar, fell by nearly 8 percent.

Crime Valley-wide fell more than 5.5 percent.

Still, some of the department’s crime-reduction strategies could end up getting pushback from the city’s top police watchdog.

Garcetti said on Monday that he asked the Office of Inspector General to conduct an audit of LAPD’s elite Metropolitan Division after a Los Angeles Times analysis found that its officers were stopping black drivers disproportionately.

More than half of the Metro Division’s stops citywide over the last three years were of black drivers. More than two-thirds of the stops made in South L.A. in that time were of black drivers, according to the Times.

LAPD added more officers to the unit, whose primary goal is crime suppression, in 2015.

Police Commission President Steve Soboroff said the OIG was already preparing to begin an audit of the Metro Division before Garcetti stepped in, but the mayor’s request could add extra urgency to the OIG’s report.

Garcetti said the report would be due in the second half of 2019.

Soboroff on Monday said arrests and stepped-up enforcement in the city’s highest crime areas would only go so far. He said supporting the city’s most vulnerable residents was just as critical in stopping crime before it starts.

“We can’t police our way out of some of these problems,” he said.

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